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MASON LOCKE WEEMS

LETTERS

1784–1809

OF THESE VOLUMES

Three Hundred Copies

have been printed

THIS IS NUMBER

195

Emily E. F. Skeel

POTTERY MUG

Probably made in Germany, indicating by its date that the hatchet and cherry tree tale did not originate with M. L. Weems in 1806. Permission for reproduction kindly granted by Mrs. Stewart Paton.

Mason Locke Weems

His Works and Ways

IN THREE VOLUMES

LETTERS
1784–1825

Edited By

EMILY ELLSWORTH FORD SKEEL

VOLUME II

NEW YORK MCMXXIX

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· *Emily · E · F · Skeel* ·

WITH

TENDER MEMORIES INTERWOVEN

THESE VOLUMES ARE INSCRIBED

TO

Gordon Lester Ford

AS FROM

THE CHILD OF HIS HEART

Paul Leicester Ford

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Pottery mug, probably made in Germany, with the initials G. W. [George Washington] and the date, 1776. Reproduced through the courtesy of Mrs. Stewart Paton. Loaned to the Museum of Historic Art, Princeton University . . . . . *Frontispiece*

Facsimile letter from Mason Locke Weems and Edward Gant to Benjamin Franklin, dated July 9th, 1784 . . 1

All Hallows Church, South River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, after a sepia sketch by Miss M. Louisa Stuart in 1884. (*Exterior*) 77

Pohick Church, Truro Parish, Fairfax County, Virginia, after a sepia sketch by Miss M. Louisa Stuart in 1899. (*Interior*) 247

Pohick Church, Truro Parish, Fairfax County, Virginia, after a sepia sketch by Miss M. Louisa Stuart in 1899. (*Exterior*) 305

INTRODUCTION

OF Mason Locke Weems there have been many thumb-nail sketches, drawn for the most part from rumor and its pauper cousin gossip, or from family tradition. When not controverted by direct evidence, the last should properly be given due weight — but no more. The body of actual facts hitherto ascertained about the Parson is so attenuated as to resemble prehistoric human remains — a few scattered bones from which the initiate can set about reconstructing a mammalian ancestor belonging to a particular epoch.

Fortunately, perhaps, no such adequate deductions and rebuildings are possible in matters spiritual or psychologic. If Dr. Holmes' three respective Johns and James make of every *tête-à-tête* a sextette, to which should be added that choir invisible of the Johns and James as their two circles view them, how infinitely many-sided must a man appear, when studied out of the flesh, following a long lapse of years with manifold changes in modes of thought.

There have been special causes operating to make a fair appraisal of Weems difficult, if not impossible, even during his life. Foremost, he was himself of so mercurial a nature and so unconventional a habit as fitted ill with the prevailing manners of his day. The annals of that time suggest a dire paucity of social charm. Most men, except scholars or successful publicists, would seem to have been either wastrels and drunkards or strait-laced and decorous folk past endurance. Moral St. Vitus' dance, or pietistic rheumatism were the chosen, fashionable ailments amongst men. The spontaneous comments of people of the period who had perspective on our habits reveal this at every turn. As Nicholas Cresswell wrote in his *Journal*, at Alexandria, Jan. 1, 1775: 'The parson is drunk and can't perform the duties of his office.' Again, a better known British visitor, John Davis, says in his *Travels in the United States:* 'Mr. Drone received me with all the decorums of dullness.' Or, to quote one of our own observers, General Joseph Martin, as recorded by Stephen B. Weeks in an article on *General Joseph Martin and the War of the*

Revolution in the West: 'Gambling was indulged in recklessly by most of the upper classes [*of colonial society*], who usually added to it the horse race, the cock fight, and intoxication.'

Amongst such groups Weems would appear 'as undomestic as a shop-front' and 'as out of tune as a parrot.' As is often the case, the looseness of conduct of one class went hand-in-hand with its insistence upon certain others walking a chalk-line, notably the clergy and women. Weems, carrying within himself as a gift of the gods the talisman of unflagging bonhomie and high spirits, must have seemed to many of that day to exhibit a pagan-like levity, not suitable to a professing minister. In a period of relentless monotony he was a born non-conformist, fated to mix much with his fellow-men.

Moreover that his works lend themselves to ridicule is only too obvious. But when viewed in the new light which his letters throw upon his character and career, they fall quite naturally into the picture and assume new values. Henry James, that most penetrating judge, wrote: 'Woe be to the mere official critic, the critic who has not felt the man!' So, when once we have studied the volatile parson as he reveals himself, his eccentricities seem as natural and his failings as forgivable as our own. His was a strange blend of generosity and shrewdness, trustfulness and suspicion, humor and earnestness, perception and obtuseness, ardor and callousness; his good moral purposes were joined to the uncouth gayeties of a clown; wit and fun, alternating with platitude and bathos, abound in his works. 'Greatest of sentimentalists' — he wrote himself down in thus describing Washington. In reading his books or his letters, just as we become convinced of some insuperable defect of temperament or taste, he turns a mental hand-spring and while we laugh aloud at his antics, we are forced to pay homage to the warmth of heart and liberality of mind which were his in so large a measure.

Weems' origin and environment explain many of his traits. The nineteenth and youngest child of his father's two flocks, of which twelve survived to maturity; reared in a region of large plantations, where existed almost no cultural influences; probably schooled, if at all in his earlier years, by inexpert teachers; voyaging, according to family tradition, on the vessels of his two ship-owning brothers; studying medicine or surgery in London or in Edinburgh; returning to Maryland

at a time when the War of Independence permitted few opportunities for practice; left an orphan at the age of twenty by the death of his father; thereupon studying abroad for the ministry, and in the face of great obstacles receiving ordination; coming back to his own country when the Church in Maryland was at its lowest ebb of wealth and influence; preaching and working for at least eight years, probably with more zeal than discretion, so as to displease his brother clerics by his methods; turning to the purchase and printing of books which might prove salable, to eke out the starveling stipends of the time; marrying at the age of thirty-five and soon after forming a connection with Mathew Carey, destined to weather for thirty-one years many a breezy tiff and hurricane-quarrel; after printing and editing, trying his own hand at writing in such a manner as to achieve a marked success if judged by large, and in some cases, lasting sales; his wife's relatives and his growing family, coupled with his abounding energy and Carey's enlarging business, made a set of spurs not needed by an already so willing worker.

When once he got into his stride as a travelling book salesman, his career seemed fore-ordained, for it is difficult to imagine him as so happy or so effective as either Balzac's '*médecin de campagne*' or '*curé de village*.' His third calling fitted him as his own skin, for his talents as a seller of books were unequalled. He may rightly be called the first of American book agents, and he is the prototype of a myriad successors. He quickly developed the qualities and the defects which are still attributed to the tribe; apt at gauging his market, prompt in changing his appeal, tireless on the road and enjoying its adventures; above all adaptive to every sort and condition of man, meeting with equal ease the crude, phlegmatic Pennsylvania-Dutch farmer and the boisterous, hard-drinking southern husbandman, the high-class city merchant and the aristocratic gentleman-planter, the dicing, brutal pot-house crew and the successful politician of many capitals. Yet he never lost his sense of their varying values, and he maintained himself in that station of life in which he was born. His talent as an advertiser was supreme, his blatant and diverting announcements of his own and other's work being clearly the grandsires of the modern 'blurb.' That he chased the dollar, which was scarcer in those days than ours, with a violent vehemence which appears to us primitive, is true, but he was not the only

one to do so. Moreover, had he failed in his embassies, scant mercy would have been shown him by his employer. A concrete test in the ledger would alone justify his choice of a vocation in Carey's eyes as well as in his own.

As a writer Weems has been subjected to torrents of ridicule and abuse, and even in this more temperate day there are seasonal outbreaks in the press of unmeasured condemnation, generally around Washington's birthday. A greater than he, Captain John Smith, has also been accused of writing fiction and labelling it history or fact, and what John Fiske noted of him may be applied to Weems: 'To this day [*he*] is one of the personages about whom writers of history are apt to lose their tempers. . . . Weak men do not call forth such belligerency. . . . They [*certain critics*] seem to resent, as a personal grievance, the fact that the gallant captain ever existed.'

Weems' biographies, so called, were fitted for an earlier, cruder day, and were probably much affected by his public, but *for* that day they served an excellent purpose. His tracts should be considered as *contes morales*, designed chiefly to reach a brutalized population, semi-pioneer in character, throughout districts of widely isolated houses and hamlets. Even though in his own letters he spoke of them as 'little trumpery,' who can question the value of bringing rank pictures of vicious self-indulgence and its consequences before such debased groups? In writing them he but followed the strongest bent of his nature and believed that he had merely widened the sphere of his influence beyond the pulpit. Hortatory he always was, and his books and tracts moralize on every page. Ethical or spiritual he never was, unless his works do belie him, but his books appealed to the young and uncultured, and seldom failed of their effect. Whether expressed as biography, political or pious tract, or 'historical' episode, the moral always ineluctably points, while the tale is luxuriantly adorned. He was an impassioned Meliorist. If he failed to know that 'hard writing makes easy reading,' he achieved the end without the process, for few can fail to be entertained by his books. These have the rare merit of communicating his own zest to their readers. As was said of Browning's verses: 'they are not the greatest poems in the world but there was the greatest pleasure in the making of them.'

That, in some of them he dropped into the coarsest slang of the

tavern is true, for when appealing to rude, unlettered boors, he steered in channels where he could win customers. But his different methods of expression were like the quick changes in make-up of a comedian and expressed his real self no more than do these.

Thus, though a product of his time and locality, Weems remained essentially *sui generis*. His environment, though potent in shaping his career, left the kernel of his inner man untouched. In nothing is this more clearly shown than in his attitude toward women. By the man, or rather men, of that day 'wine and woman' were made into a bogey — a duality of evil — which were thus a source of fear and foreboding to the timid, while to the more exuberant of temperament they became a 'dare,' proving dangerous either as something to be exorcised and spoken of with bated breath, or as an intriguing danger, whetting temptation by its imputed risk. Even so late as 1822, the *Georgian* of Savannah thus advertised a book: '*The Perils of Man — War, Women & Witchcraft.*'

To be sure it must in candor be admitted that Weems' books suggest his being uxorious to a degree. Whenever he treats of marriage there is that cast over his thought, and his imagination wallows in the same kind of unrestrained primitive sensuousness that is found in Solomon and some other highly successful worthies. Yet, withal, no hint can be found, either in his published writings or his letters, of his being coarse or animal in his relations with women. Given his outpouring nature and style, any taint of that sort would surely betray itself. Rather one gathers the distinct impression that his mind, his heart and his life were exceptionally clean for his day and his clime — in which many men habitually appraised women from their 'neat ankles' up, quite frankly in the spirit of the horse-dealer. But, as is frequently the case with folk addicted to religious fervor, it can be plainly seen that he let himself go, when writing on 'the sex,' with a tinge of lascivious symbolism, linked with the idea of the creative mission of woman. Of that inward contempt for women which can go hand-in-hand with an outward semblance of respect and deference, and which Lord Morley says many a man, though harboring, would be ashamed to admit, Weems was absolutely free. In a day and in localities where the female of the species was lucky if she were taught the first two only of the trinity of R's, plus stitchery and cookery, he

unflaggingly preached the wisdom and expediency of education for girls as well as boys. Here — as in his usual views and practices toward the slave population — he was head and shoulders above the average man of his day. On these two counts he may fairly be called as exotic in the South of 1790 to 1825 as would be a hibiscus blooming outdoors during a New England winter.

It is as far from my desire to overrate him as to belittle him. Between either of these extremes I have tried merely to hold the even scales of justice, blindfolded, perhaps, but never deaf to his outpourings, which are so odd a blend of the sensible and the preposterous. Before 1902 my brother Paul wrote: 'No man whose writings have passed through some two hundred editions, or of whose productions some two hundred and fifty thousand copies have sold, deserves complete forgetfulness. Such literary attempts merit a place in the archæology of literature if nowhere else. No history of the American people or their literature can be complete without noticing the man and his work.'

After a hundred years, it seems his due to be accorded a wider knowledge and a more definite standing among his compatriots, for he merits his individual niche in one of the antechambers of American letters. These are, at best, but bald and ill-furnished apartments, the years of his activity — roughly speaking, from 1792 to 1825 — being singularly lacking in penmen.

Yet rather than cavil at his shortcomings, is it not the part of wisdom to take him at his true value — a hyphen, unimportant, perchance, yet not negligible, between two significant words which help to form a complete phrase?

Since so little has been surely attested as to his early life, it is fortunate that now a large collection of his letters throw light upon him after his thirty-fifth year. From 1794 to 1825, a few weeks before his death, he writes his own biography with a fulness and picturesqueness which no one else could hope to attain. He does not hold a mirror up to nature, he simply walks abroad in the open daylight of unconscious self-revelation, in a degree and to an extent almost unparalleled. Few of our tongue have left so complete a chronicle, in letters, of their daily walk and conversation and of the manner of men they were. Of those who immediately come to mind in this connection, most were more

self-conscious or sophisticated than he, even in their lightest jottings. Many across the water, to be sure, have left annals more picturesque, more spicy, more rich in historical interest. But admitting the cruder and more drab aspect of our country, is not Weems, as a chronicler, of as much value to us for our clime as his racier British compeers are for theirs?

There remains the pleasant task of acknowledging my great obligation to Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth and Mr. Walter B. Norris for informing me of that which I had long sought in vain — the existence of these letters; and also to Messrs. Lea and Febiger for their generosity in giving me access to their full files, which came to their firm by direct business, as well as family, inheritance from Mathew Carey. It is only through their combined courtesy that Weems is enabled to appear in a garb of his own weaving rather than in any custom-made garments from the hands of others.

No one can regret more keenly than I that my brother Paul was not spared to write the life of Weems which he had had in mind for a number of years. Under his searching eye, yet always most human spirit, the Parson would indeed have lived again. I cannot hope to take up the pen which was dropped from his dear hand. But though I have not been the engineer to plan and build a bridge to span the past century, I may launch an old-time ferryboat and signal for its steering across the stream, leaving to others the welcome of its quaint assortment of passengers and, above all, its whimsical skipper.

Emily Ellsworth Ford Skeel

Rome, Italy
January 28, 1927

CHRONOLOGY

It has seemed futile to enlarge upon the myths and legends so generally attributed to Weems' early life. Therefore a bare chronology only has been made, of actual facts as well as of such allegations as have been so often repeated as to merit notice.

1759 Mason Locke Weems, born at Marshes Seat, Herring Bay, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, October 11, 1759; youngest of David Weems' nineteen children, of whom twelve were by his second wife, Esther Hill Weems. [*Appendix I.*]

1759–1769 Nothing known of his early childhood. [*Appendix II.*]

1769–1774 (?) Sent away to school to Daniel *Jenifer* of St. Thomas, Jenifer, Maryland; while there taught the poor, *sub rosa*. [*Appendix III.*]

1770–1775 Said to have graduated 'with honors' from Kent Free School, which was later, in 1782, incorporated as Washington College, Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland. [*Appendix IV.*]

1770–1776 (?) Made voyages, perhaps at this time, on his two elder brothers' trading vessels. [*Appendix V.*]

1777–1779 (?) Studied medicine or surgery at Edinburgh, Scotland. [*Appendix VI.*] Bore no part, so far as known, in the War of the Revolution [*Appendix VII*], unless (?) he made voyages as surgeon on a British man-of-war [*Appendix VIII*]. (?) Returned to Maryland. Death of his father, 1779; freed the slaves bequeathed to him. [*Appendix IX.*]

1780–1784 Went to England to study for the ministry, (?) 1780–1783. Late in 1783, or early in 1784, wrote to John Adams at The Hague, and again, July 9, 1784, to Benjamin Franklin at Paris, to secure their assistance in obtaining ordination. Made a Deacon, Sept. 5, 1784, by the Bishop of Chester, acting under the Bishop of London, in the Duke Street Chapel, Westminster. Ordained a Priest, Sept. 12, 1784, by the Archbishop of Canterbury. [*Appendix X.*]

1784–1793 Returned to Maryland. In 1784 appointed Rector of All Hallows, South River, Herring Creek, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, where he officiated until 1789. Was one of the signers of the Church Constitution for Maryland, 1789. Appointed Rector of St. Margaret's, Westminster,

Maryland, 1791. Attended Episcopal Church Conventions for that state, 1784–1792. Appointed to the Superintending Committee for the Western Shore, 1788–1789. Connection severed with a settled rectorship, (?) 1793. [*Appendix XI.*]

1785–1789 Was a member of the South River Club, 1785–1787. [*Appendix XII.*] Said to have opened a school. [*Appendix XIII.*]

1787–1793 Association with Rev., afterward Bishop, Thomas John Claggett. [*Appendix XIV.*]

1787–1797 Association with Rev. William Duke. [*Appendix XV.*]

1791–1793 First issues of his reprints found — Robert Russel's *Sermons*, 1791; Hugh Blair's *Sermons*, 2 vols., 1792–1793; Lewis Cornaro's *Sure and Certain Methods of Attaining a Long and Healthy Life*, 1793; Hannah More's *Religion of the Fashionable World* [*1793?*]; and perhaps one other, not yet traced [*Bibliography, title 228*].

1794 Visited New York, probably on book business [*Appendix XIV*], and perhaps purchased for sale a part of Samuel Campbell's issue of Salomon Gessner's *The Death of Abel.* Commenced business relations with Mathew Carey during a visit to Philadelphia. [*Appendix XVI.*] First letter of Weems found addressed to Carey. Reprinted Henry Wilson's *An Account of the Pelew Islands;* (?) purchased or reprinted *Twelve Cents Worth of Wit* [*? Anon. ? 1794–1795*].

1795 Travelled in Maryland, selling books. Was married to Frances, daughter of Colonel Jesse Ewell of Belle Air [*or Bel Air*], near Dumfries, Prince William County, Virginia, July 2nd, settling in that neighborhood. [*Appendix XVII.*] Reprinted Mrs. Helme's *Louisa* and Mr. Brooke's *Reprobate;* also issued *The American Farmer's Guide* [*Anon. ? 1795–1796*], probably his own compilation.

1796 Immersed in book selling and printing. Saw Carey in Philadelphia and travelled for him in Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, arranging to deposit Carey's books with merchants or others, for sale. A daughter, first of his twelve children, born. [*Appendix XVII.*] Troubled by debts, yet desirous of establishing a charity school in Virginia. Proposed a lottery to Carey, and presented a petition therefor to the Virginia House of Assembly, too late for action. Suggested, through Mathew Carey, a support of his brother James Carey's issue of Thomas Paine's *Works*, with Bishop Watson's *Reply;* reprinted Cornaro's *Sure and Certain Methods* under the title of *The Immortal Mentor.* From this year to 1801 was actively seeking subscribers for Carey to Guthrie's *Geography.*

1797 Travelled in Maryland and Virginia, and possibly by sea to Georgia. [*Appendix XVIII.*] Presented a petition for a lottery for local improvements in Prince William County to the Virginia House of Assembly, which failed of success. During this year and the next was in financial difficulties with his printers and binders, the Adams brothers, James Wilson and others. First suggestion from him of the value of cheap popular lives of the Revolutionary generals. Planned a *Franklin Almanac.* Issued *The Maryland and Virginia Almanac for 1798* [*1797*]; reprinted Mme. de Genlis' *Sacred Dramas.*

1798 Travelled about Virginia. Birth of his second child, a daughter. [*Appendix XVII.*] Purchased first some land in the town of Dumfries, and more, later, with a house and various outbuildings. Appears to have published a work of his own, *The Lover's Almanac* [*?1798–1799*], with matter probably similar to if not identical with that in his two almanacs for 1800.

1799 Was much at home. Borrowed money for Carey from one of his elder brothers. [*Appendix V.*] First son born. [*Appendix XVII.*] Continued his success in getting subscriptions for Carey's edition of Oliver Goldsmith's *Animated Nature.* First mention of his plan for a work on Washington, before the General's death. Published his first original works found — *The Philanthropist* [*1799?*], and possibly *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* (*No. 1*); excerpts from the latter included in his issue of *The Virginia Almanac* and *The Virginia & North Carolina Almanac for 1800* [*1799*]. Possibly published *The Bachelor's Almanac* (*?*) *1799–1800.*

1800 Travelled through Delaware and about New Jersey to New York, then back to Virginia, getting subscriptions for an edition of *The Bible,* which he first had urged upon Carey and the sales of which he pushed throughout his life. Carey and he often quarrelling, even planning to separate. Was first approached, by Judge Bushrod Washington, to assist in getting subscriptions for Caleb P. Wayne's issue of John Marshall's *Life of Washington.* Republished *The Philanthropist;* issued the first (anonymous) and the second (signed) versions of his *Life of Washington,* the latter in three editions. [*Appendix XIX.*]

1801 Travelled about nearby Virginia and in New Jersey. Birth of his fourth child, a daughter. [*Appendix XVII.*] Officiating as temporary incumbent in more than one parish. Greatly troubled by debts. Wanted Carey to reprint for him his signed *Washington.* Asked for higher selling commission, as his agent, $33\frac{1}{3}$ rather than 25 per cent. Quarrels between them

continuing. Carey declined the use of his name for a reprint of Algernon Sidney's *Works*. Weems complained about Carey's *Almanacs*. Discussed Carey's projects for *The Bible*. Second issue of his anonymous version of *Washington* printed; possibly first published his *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* (*No. 2*).

1802 Travelled about New Jersey, to New York, and later through Delaware into Maryland and Virginia. Renewed connection with Carey, after preaching for some months at Pohick Church, Truro Parish, Fairfax County, Virginia. [*Appendix XIX.*] Opened, or continued, a book salesroom in Dumfries. Offered advice to Carey about his editions of *The Bible*. Duyckinck of New York failed in a proposal to reprint the signed version of his *Washington*. This reprinted twice elsewhere [*?1802–1803*]. Published his own *True Patriot* and (?) reprinted *Hymen* (*No. 2*); reprinted *The Immortal Mentor;* extracts from *Hymen* (*No. 1*) were reprinted in *Carey's Franklin Almanack for 1803* [*1802*].

1803 Travelled about Virginia and into southern Pennsylvania, getting subscriptions for Wayne for Marshall's *Washington*. Fifth child, a daughter, born [*possibly 1802*]. [*Appendix XVII.*] Reprinted *The Immortal Mentor* and (?) *Washington;* printed *Weems's Washington Almanac for 1804* [*1803*], which included excerpts from his *True Patriot*.

1804 Travelled to North and South Carolina and Georgia, returning home to travel in Virginia, Pennsylvania and Maryland and back again to Georgia. Sixth child, a daughter, born. [*Appendix XVII.*] Made general complaints to Carey. Encouraged or counselled Wayne about Anquetil's *Works* and Marshall's *Washington;* extracts from *Hymen* (*No. 1*) reprinted in *Carey's Franklin Almanack for 1805* [*1804*].

1805 Travelled through Virginia and the Carolinas to Georgia; returned home and travelled into Pennsylvania and Maryland. Death of his father-in-law, Colonel Ewell, and by a mortgage to the widow, coupled with others in the years following, obtained partial rights to Belle Air. [*Appendix XVII.*] Reprinted *Hymen* (*No. 1*); planned and issued an edition of Sidney's *Works;* signed version of his *Washington* reprinted [*1805–1806?*].

1806 Was in the southern states the whole year. Second son born. [*Appendix XVII.*] Selling books and getting subscribers for both Carey and Wayne. Urged them to reprint *Almanacs* and *Hymen* (*No. 1*) for him. Rewrote and published the signed version of *Washington*, with a new title, calling this edition the fifth; first inclusion of the now famous cherry-tree tale.

Issued an edition of Montagu's *Ancient Republicks;* (?) printed *The Bachelor's Almanac* and *The Grand Republican Almanac for 1807* [*1806*].

1807 Was still in the South. New terms discussed with Carey. Published his *God's Revenge Against Murder.*

1808 Returned home and travelled briefly in nearby Virginia and Delaware. Third son born [died 1809]. [*Appendix XVII.*] Talked of publishing a *Life of Marion* and corresponded about the book with Major Peter Horry, its originator. Sometime between 1808 and 1809 sold to Carey for about $1,000 the rights to the signed version of *Washington;* his 1806 version, with changes, reprinted three times, his *Murder* twice.

1809–1810 Travelled in Pennsylvania, Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia. Fourth son born, 1809. [*Appendix XVII.*] Again quarrelling with Carey. Took over an interest in Belle Air. [*Appendix XVII.*] Considered settling permanently in Georgia, 1810. Connection with Wayne severed [*1810?*]. His *Washington* reprinted eight times, including the anonymous version once in German, 1809, and the signed version once in German, 1810. First called himself 'Formerly Rector of Mt. Vernon Parish' on the title page of the eighth edition, 1809. [*Appendix XIX.*] Possibly published his *God's Revenge Against Gambling* [*1810?*]; also his *Life of Marion* [*? 1809 or 1810*], for the printing of which he had been negotiating with Robinson of Baltimore. Republished *The Philanthropist,* 1809; and two editions each of *Murder,* 1809, and of *Mentor,* 1809 and 1810. Desirous of reprinting Henry Hunter's *Sacred Biography.*

1811–1814 Continued travelling in Georgia and returned home after an absence of twenty-three months; thence to Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, Virginia, Delaware and Maryland, as well as to Philadelphia and Washington, D. C. Fifth son born, 1812 [died 1813]. Marriage of his eldest daughter, 1812 [died 1813]. [*Appendix XVII.*] Had serious quarrels with Carey, as the War of 1812 injured their business. Was much at home. Thought of removing to Baltimore [1813]. *Washington* republished five times, 1812–1814; *God's Revenge Against Gambling,* 1812; *Drunkard's Looking Glass* three times [*1812?*]–1814; *Murder,* 1814; published the earliest edition found of his *Life of Marion,* 1814. Perhaps published (?) *The Devil Done Over* [*1812?*] by himself and purchased or reprinted a (?) *Dream Book* [*1813?*].

1815–1817 Travelled back and forth to Washington and Baltimore, and in late 1816 and early 1817 made more extensive trips into Pennsylvania and Maryland. Joined in public rejoicing over the declaration of peace,

in Europe, 1815. Urged Carey to reprint William Coxe's *View on the Cultivation of Fruit Trees*, 1816; planned to reprint Hunter's *Sacred Biography;* sought commendations for these works, as well as for Samuel Davies' *Sermons*. Specimens for Hunter sent him by Carey, 1817, and Weems worried at the failure to issue the edition as planned. Published his own *Life of Franklin*, 1815, reprinted 1817; issued *Peter and John Hay*, 1816; *Washington* reprinted five times, including one German edition of the signed version in 1817; *Marion*, possibly, three times; *Mentor*, 1815; two editions each of *God's Revenge Against Adultery, Hymen (No. 1)* and *Gambling*, 1815 and 1816; *Murder* reprinted, 1814 and 1816; *Drunkard* (twice), 1816; issued one volume of Samuel Davies' *Sermons*, 1816; was concerned in printing *Anecdotes of Gamblers*, 1816, which he later regretted.

1818–1821 From Richmond, travelled down through the James River country, about Virginia and Maryland, and to Philadelphia and Washington, getting subscriptions for Hunter. Went to South Carolina and returned home. Marriage of his eldest son, 1818. His second and third daughters married 1820 [died 1821]. [*Appendix XVII.*] *Washington* reprinted five times; *Marion* twice; *Franklin* three times; *Murder, Drunkard, Gambling* and *Adultery, Peter and John Hay, Anecdotes of Gamblers*, 1818; published *God's Revenge Against Duelling*, 1820 and 1821; after 1820, selling for Carey *Lavoisne's Atlas*.

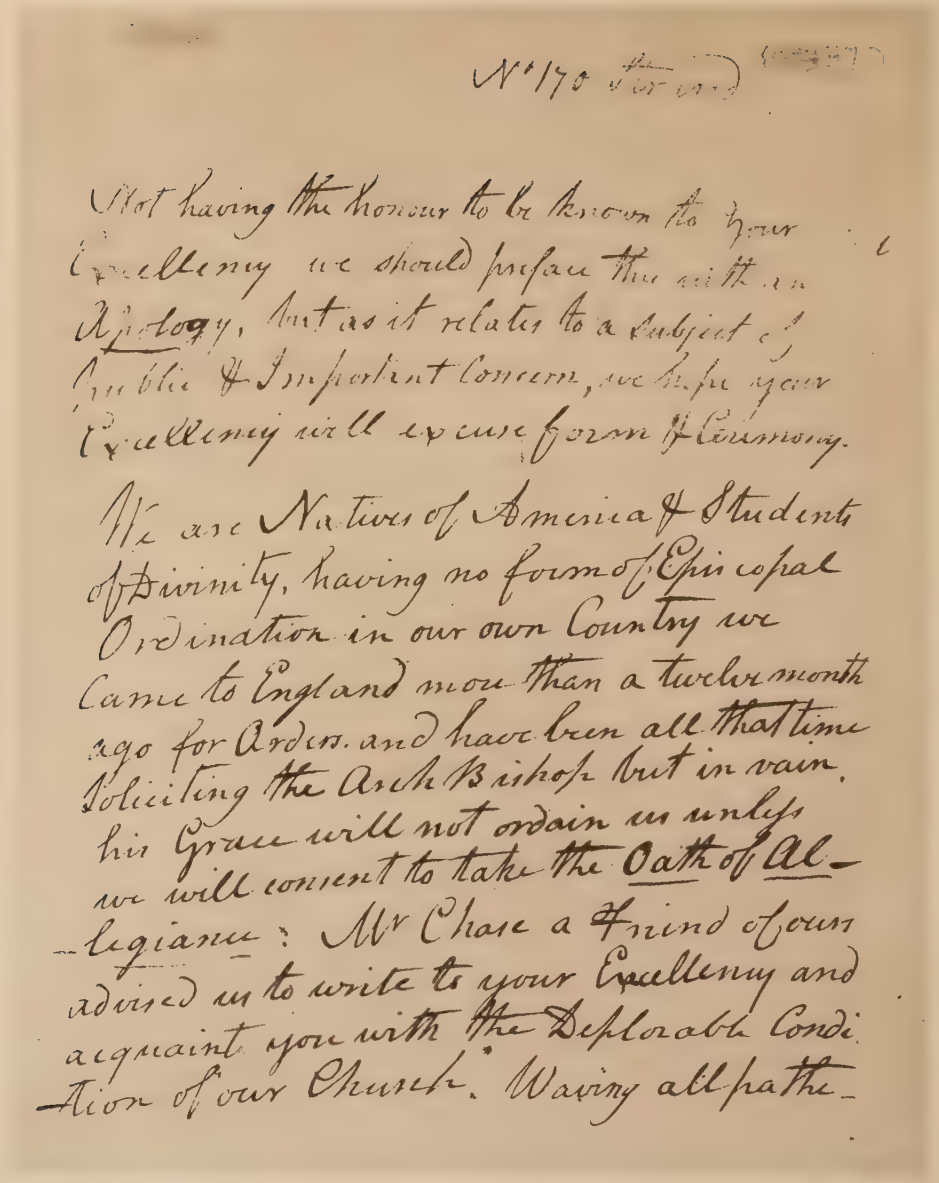
1822–1824 Travelled in the South. Marriage of his fourth daughter, 1824. [*Appendix XVII.*] *Washington* and *Marion* reprinted three times; *Franklin* once; *Hymen (No. 1)* twice; *Gambling* and *Duelling*, 1822. *Murder*, 1823. Still selling *Lavoisne's Atlas* and *The Bible* for Carey; Published *The Life of Penn*, 1822, and *The Bad Wife's Looking Glass*, 1823.

1825 Still in the South. *Marion* reprinted. Fell seriously ill in January and died May 23, 1825, at Beaufort, South Carolina, where his remains were first interred — later removed to Belle Air, near Dumfries, Virginia. [*Appendix XX.*]

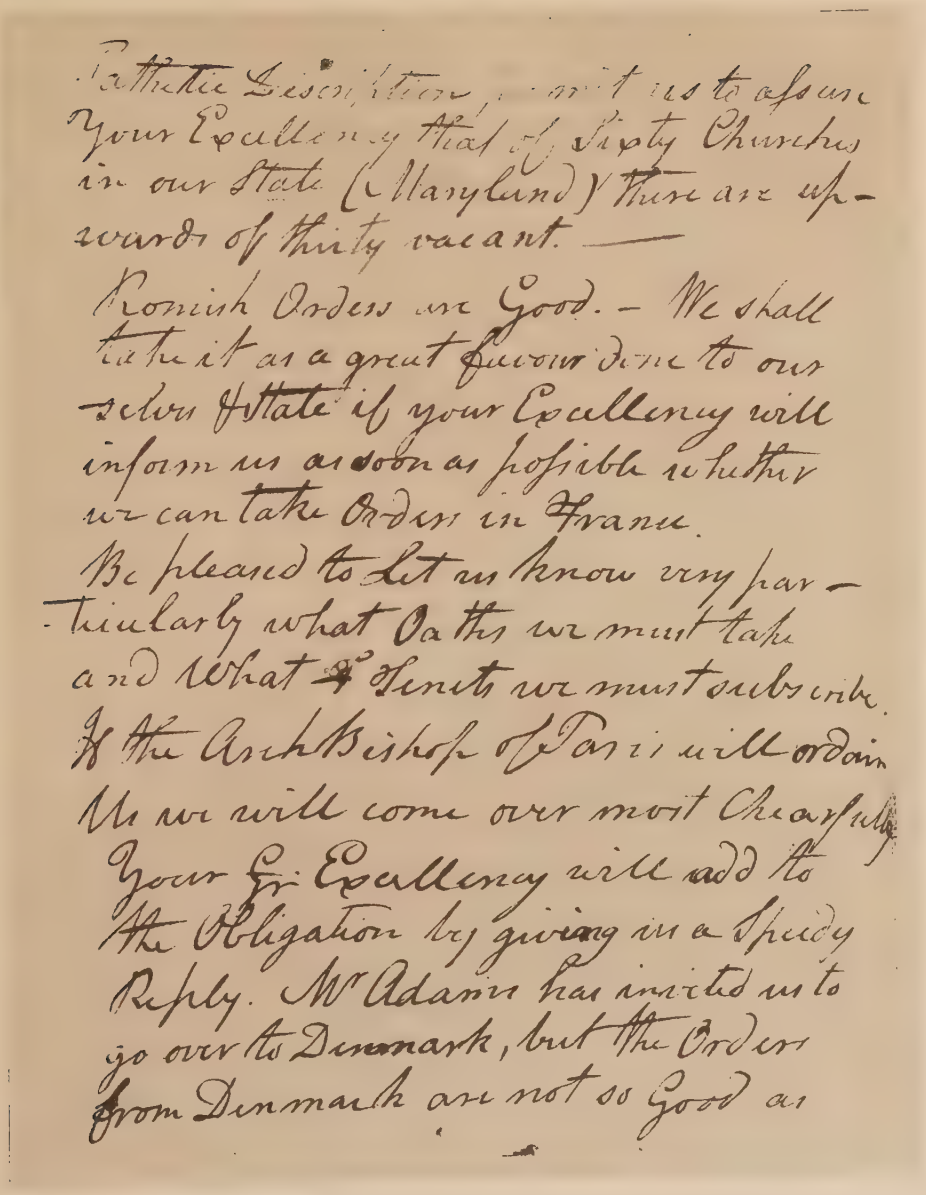
TO THE READER. IF THOU BEEST MORE, THOU ART AN UNDERSTANDER, AND THEN I TRUST THEE. — *Ben Jonson.*

NO MAN WAS EVER MORE UNLIKE ANOTHER, THAN HE WAS OCCASIONALLY UNLIKE HIMSELF. — *De La Rochefoucauld.*

WE LEARN FROM HISTORY THAT WE HAVE NEVER LEARNED ANYTHING FROM HISTORY. — *Hegel.*



Facsimile of a Letter to Benjamin Franklin



In the Dissolution, permit us to assure Your Excellency that of Sixty Churches in our State (Maryland) there are upwards of thirty vacant.

Romish Orders are Good. — We shall take it as a great favour done to our selves & State if your Excellency will inform us as soon as possible whether we can take Orders in France.

Be pleased to Let us know very particularly what Oaths we must take and what Tenets we must subscribe. If the Arch Bishop of Paris will ordain us we will come over most Chearfully.

Your Excellency will add to the Obligation by giving us a speedy Reply. Mr Adams has invited us to go over to Denmark, but the Orders from Denmark are not so Good as

FROM MASON LOCKE WEEMS AND EDWARD GANT

we wish them to be —

We have the honour to be Your Excel-
lency's Most Obed.t humble
Servts.

Mason Weems
Edward Gant

N.o 170 Strand.

July 9.th 1784

LETTERS

There is nothing more certain than that every man's life . . . . is a line that continually oscillates on every side of its direction.
— William James.

[To Mathew Carey[1]]

L. & F. Vol. 14.
Decemb. 31. [17]94.

Dear Sir. I am just about to leave Wilmington, but not without giving the *promis'd* orders with respect to your Louisa's.[2] I have desir'd Messrs. Adams [3] to deliver (on your acct) to Messrs. Lea & Wilson [4] 250 of them. The ballance is in my favor but it makes no odds. I thought it right so to do as I might perhaps quit this Planet sooner than we

[1] For other letters of 1784, already in print, see *Appendix X*. The bulk of the unpublished letters to and from Weems printed in these volumes are from the files of Messrs. Lea & Febiger of Philadelphia. The system followed concerning the salutations and signatures is inconsistent, their inclusion in certain instances being due only to a desire to express the varying and passing moods and tempers of the writer. Where not given after the earlier ones they are almost invariably 'Dear Carey' or 'Dear Sir,' and 'Yours [or Your], M. L. Weems' or 'M. L. W.'

[2] *The History of Louisa, the Lovely Orphan; or the Cottage on the Moor . . .* by Mrs. Helme. . . . Wilmington: Printed for the Rev. M. L. Weems, by Samuel and John Adams, . . . 1795. (*Bibliography, title 232.*) Weems at this time had already planned the reprinting of this popular story, and his letter shows the first business coöperation between Mathew Carey and himself found.

[3] Samuel and John Adams, printers, of Baltimore and Wilmington, publishers of *The Delaware & Eastern Shore Advertiser*, had already printed for Weems, *Sermons* by Robert Russel, 1791, and by Hugh Blair, 1792–1793, and Keate's *Account of the Pelew Islands*, 1794 (*Bibliography, titles 227, 229–230 and 226*).

[4] James Wilson established *The American Watchman* (Wilmington) in 1809, which he sold in 1817. He also established *The Mirror of the Times* (Wilmington) in 1799 as a successor to *The Delaware Gazette*. See *McCulloch's Additions to Thomas's History of Printing*, *ProcAAS.*, Vol. XXXI, April, 1921. Also *History of the State of Delaware*, Henry C. Conrad, 1908, p. 1087. — James Wilson wrote to Mathew Carey from Wilmington, Dec. 11, 1793: 'I hope you will not omit attending a little, and write if you say nothing but D——n you, hold your tongue.' In 1794 his firm of Lea & Wilson was evidently binding for Carey. On Apr. 4, 1795, he wrote Carey, adjuring him 'for the love of St. Tamany [*sic*]' to send the books he wrote for. L. & F. — *The Delaware & Eastern Shore Advertiser*, May 6, 1795 *et seq.* [HSP.], contains an advertisement of Wilson's, with long verses, quaint and well

expect. . . . Wishing that we may always print & reprint such Books as may do good in Society I remain

Dear Sir
Your's
With friendship
M. L. Weems.

done, inviting visitors and 'little masters and misses' to his shop. — *Ad.* 'Books and Stationary, James Wilson, bookseller and stationer, at the sign of Shakespear, south side of the upper market-house, Wilmington. . . .' *Delaware Gazette*, Oct. 6, 1796 *et seq.*, HU. — 'The person who a few days since took from the bookstore of the editor [*James Wilson*], "An *Essay* on the *Slavery* and *Commerce* of the *Human Species*, particularly the *African*," is requested to return the book, or we shall in a few days hence furnish him with another essay in which we shall endeavor to expose him.' *Mirror of the Times*, Wilmington, Aug. 1, 1804, AAS.

Women were born, so fate declares,
To smoothe our linnen and our cares;
And 'tis but just, for by my troth
They're very apt to ruffle both.

L. & F. Vol. 14.
Jan^{y}. 1st [17]95.

Dear Sir, — — Be pleas'd to send me half a Ream of Marble Paper for which when I see you in the Spring I shall satisfy you either in Prayer Books [1] or Cash — Yours

With much respect

NB. Direct the Bundle of Paper to Care of Mess^{r}. Sam^{l}. & John Adams, Wilmington.

L. & F. Vol. 14.
Elkton. June 17th. [17]95.

Dear Carey. In my hurry to get off with the Packet I left you so precipitately as to leave behind me a great many of the books we contracted for. e.g. all the Annual Register,[2] All Bunyans little spiritualiz^{d} picture Books,[3] Miss Hanna^{h} Moore's "search after happiness" [4] — Now I shall greatly thank you to send forward *instantly* all the above and whatever else I may have left thro inadvertence & haste. You may likewise if you think proper (after what I have told you with respect to my circumstances and hopes in life) send me on as many of Rob^{t}. Forbes,[5]

[1] Evidently Weems had purchased a number of prayer books for resale, but the edition has not been identified.

[2] 'Annual Register and its plagiarists, Gordon and Ramway. . . .' Walter B. Norris in *The Nation*, New York, Feb. 29, 1912, pp. 207–208, LC.

[3] *Divine Emblems; or, Temporal Things Spiritualized*, by John Bunyan, Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, 1808, BA. An earlier edition was advertised in the back fly leaves of *Letters from an American Farmer*, M. Carey, 1793, LC.; also listed in *Carey's Catalogue* for 1795, LC. See also *Forgotten Books of the American Nursery*, Rosalie V. Halsey, Boston, 1911, p. 13.

[4] *The Search after Happiness: a Pastoral Drama*, by Hannah More, London, 1791, NYPL.

[5] *A Narrative of the Extraordinary Sufferings of Mr. Robert Forbes, his Wife, and Five Children; during an Unfortunate Journey through the Wilderness, from Canada to Kennebeck River, in the year 1784*, by Arthur Bradman, Philadelphia, M. Carey, 1794, NYPL.

Manheim,[1] Algiers,[2] Humphreys Poems,[3] and Carey on Y[*ellow*] Fe[*ver*].[4] which, en passant, you did not give me on Friday. I say you may send me of these as many as we contracted for, and likewise of the Ladies Friend [5] as above. Be pleas[d] to send them well nailed up in a Box by the New Castle Stage & Packet to Balt[o]. to me, to care of William M'Donnal.[6] I sent you 20 Setts of Literary Miscellany,[7] and he promis[d] me that he w[d] send you up immediately the 60 U. Irishmen [8] in Sheets. M[r]. Bailey promis[d] you his little Bibles [9] 533 in N[o]. and M[r]. Benjamin Johnson [10] will give you the 400 Reprobates [11] as soon as they are

[1] *Affecting History of the Dreadful Distresses of Frederic Manheim's Family*, Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, 1794, NYPL.

[2] *A Journal, of the Captivity and Sufferings of John Foss; Several Years a Prisoner at Algiers:* Newburyport, second edition [*n.d. 1798?*], NYPL. Carey may have printed an earlier edition, but I have never found a copy.

[3] *Poems by Col. David Humphreys, late aid-de-camp to his excellency General Washington*, second edition, Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, 1789, NYPL. — David Humphreys at one time was Washington's secretary.

[4] *A Short Account of the Malignant Fever, Prevalent in the Year 1793 in the City of Philadelphia*, by Mathew Carey, Philadelphia, 1793, and succeeding editions, LC.

[5] *The Ladies Friend* [*by Pierre Joseph Boudier de Villemert, 1789*], New Haven, NYPL.

[6] 'M'Donald, Wm. & Son, merch. and office for the Philadelphia land and water line of packets and stages *via* Frenchtown, 103 Bowley's wharf'. *Baltimore Directory*, 1814, LC. — 'Messrs. William McDonald and Co., owners of the line of packets to French-Town, on Elk River . . .' *Annals of Baltimore*, Thomas W. Griffith, Baltimore, 1833, p. 205, LC.

[7] *The Literary Miscellany*, London, 1796, NYPL.

[8] Relating to the well-known Irish organization of that era.

[9] I have become convinced that these allusions refer to *Bailey's Pocket Almanac For the Year of our Lord, 1794*, and succeeding years, Philadelphia, Francis Bailey, HSP. Not only have I failed to discover any small edition of the Bible printed by Bailey, but, given Weems' jocular speech, what more likely than that he should allude to these tiny booklets, so essential to the farmer, as 'little bibles'? Francis Bailey, early of Lancaster, Pa., at this time had his printing establishment at 116 High Street, Philadelphia, next door to Mathew Carey, where he continued until 1799, when he moved, with part of his office, to Lancaster again, leaving his son Robert in charge of his business in Philadelphia. See *William McCulloch's Additions to Thomas's History of Printing*, in *ProcAAS.*, Vol. XXXI, April, 1921, pp. 103, 98. Francis and Robert Bailey printed for Weems the 1796 edition of *The Immortal Mentor* (*Bibliography, title 220*).

[10] 'In Philadelphia Benjamin and Jacob Johnson and later Johnson and Warner [*who apparently succeeded them and who had by 1810 branch shops in Richmond, Va., and Lexington, Ky.*] . . .' *Forgotten Books of the American Nursery*, Rosalie V. Halsey, Boston, 1911, pp. 164, 183. See also page 414. — 'Johnson, Benjamin, printer and stationer 249 High' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1809, LC. — 'Benjamin Johnson was a member of the American Company of Booksellers.' *Mirror of the Times* (Wilmington), July 16, 1803, AAS. — He published for Weems the 1809 edition of *The Immortal Mentor* (*Bibliography, title 223*).

[11] *The History of a Reprobate*, by Mr.

bound. I have just written to M^r. Johnson by the Wilmington Packet & sent him some books, which with the books he has of mine will amply indemnify him for the 400 Reprobates I wish him to furnish to you. Be pleas^d to mark the Box on two or three places, and to send it on *instantly* as I wish to be up from my trans Potowmac excursion and to see thy friendly phizz in 4 weeks. best wishes to your good Lady,

Yours, dear Carey, with much friendship,

L. & F. Vol. 14.

[*N.d. after June 17, 1795*].

Dear Carey. I call^d to apologize for not having waited on thee this afternoon according to promise. Verily I had not time. The Sun w^d. not stand still for me in Gideon nor the Moon in the Valley of Ajalon, and nothing less than such a latitude of fugitive hours w^d. have serv^d my turn.

Prithee let the books which thou intendest for me, maintain their station unmolested in the large Pidgeon hole in thy cellar, untill my return which will I hope be in three weeks and then I shall be able to give you mine and take thine —

adieu, yours

Brooke, printed for the Rev. M. L. Weems, by Jacob Johnson & Co., Philadelphia, 1795. (*Bibliography, title 233.*) This is a characteristic output of Weems, being most of Chapter XVI from the third volume of *The Fool of Quality; or the History of Henry, Earl of Moreland*, published in London, 1766 [LC.]. It is all in line with Hogarth's *Rake's Progress*, and other homiletics of that day, wherein those who pandered to the prurient were less frank in their approach, but no more effective than the slushers of our day.

No one should ever ask a man whether he was born in Virginia, because, if he was he will certainly tell you himself, and if he was not he will be ashamed to admit it. — WILLIAM CABELL BRUCE.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

MIDDLETOWN, PENNSYLV[a]. [*Feb.? 1796?*]

DEAR CAREY. I am now in a very dutchified and I may add stonified country. However I have no great reason to complain. In the three last days, I have obtain[d] nearly 40 subscriptions and been oblig[d] to *walk* 20 miles.

Inclos[d] I send you a list of Books for a Judge Henry of Lancaster, he is a great Man. adieu your

Love to M[rs]. C.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

30 MILES FROM PHILAD[a]. [*Feb.? 1796?*]

DEAR CAREY, A stony turnpike road seems to promise but a hessian-fly sort of a harvest to a sentimental subscription scheme, however, by paying all due honor to the good old injunction, I mean, by being *instant in season and out of season*, I have, thank God, enlisted several Patrons to your Nat. history.[1] Among the rest, the Rev[d] W[m]. Marshall an honest Israelite of your town, to whom I hope you will pay due attention and in due time. Sh[d] a Major Martin of snow hill[2] call on you for some Books, as from his promise a fortnight ago I have reason to expect, you may let him have 50 or an 100 or 200 L.[*ouisa?*] if you think

[1] *An History of the Earth, and Animated Nature*, by Oliver Goldsmith, Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, 1795, AAS. (*Bibliography, title 244.*) For the terms on which Weems took over the sale of this book, see agreement of April 1, 1796, below. — 'I published a large edition (three thousand copies,) of Goldsmith's Animated Nature, in four octavo volumes, at ten dollars, . . . far superior to the London one. . . .' *Letters*, Mathew Carey, in *New England Magazine*, Vol. VI, March, 1834, p. 230, LC.

[2] 'Snowhill, a port of entry and post-town of the Eastern shore of Md. and capital of Worcester County. 158 miles S. by W. of Philadelphia.' *Scott's Gazetteer*, LC.

proper on the plan you mentioned yesterday. Major M. is an old school Mate of mine, a Gentleman of property and of at least as *much* honor as any *Lawyer* on the Continent. — I promis[d] to allow him 15 Pr Cent commission — a fearful drawback truly! — tell him to put on 5 pr cent on the Philad[a]. prices, which at an 100 miles distance they well may bear.

If you send them, *insure* — Give him subscription papers & an handsome specimen as likewise some of the American Atlass.[1]

L. & F. Vol. 23.
DUMFRIES, March 12, 1796.

DEAR CAREY, Since I saw you I have not eaten the bread of idleness, neither have my labours been unrewarded. The following is a list of the very Respectable Names that have honor[d] my *own* paper (and chiefly in the course of *4* weeks.) . . . [*Here follows a list of 163 Virginia subscribers.*]

[FROM CAREY[2]]

L. & F.
Mar. 13, 1796.

. . . Burkett[3] I shall keep on hand for the Benefit of the Snuff men of the rising generation rather than deliver them a shilling under six dollars. They cost me 5. I am willing to *divide* the profit with you but not as you wish. . . . I wish an *equal division*. . . . I have just rec[d]. a Bookbinders Bill for above 1800 dollars a large proportion of which is for your books. Think of that Master Parson.

[MEMORANDUM]

L. & F. Vol. 23.
1796, April 1st.

1. Mathew Carey engages to furnish M. L. Weems, with as many copies of Goldsmith's animated nature as he can procure Subscribers for, at four dollars & three quarters each, neatly b'd; of the American and

[1] *Carey's American Atlas*, Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, 1795, LC. (*Bibliography, title 245.*) For the terms on which Weems took over the sale of this Atlas, see agreement of April 1, 1796.

[2] In the earlier volumes of Carey's correspondence the copies of his letters in his own hand are very exact and show his thorough education. By the time Weems and he corresponded his business had so increased that his letters were evidently copied by or dictated to an employee. I have therefore made no point of correcting their blunders.

[3] First American Edition. *Expository Notes, with Practical Observations, on the New Testament of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.* . . . By William Burkitt, M.A. . . . Phila-

general Atlas,[1] at one fourth deduction from the retail price; and of Hervey's Meditations,[2] at two thirds of a dollar each, neatly bound.

2. All the books shipped by Mathew Carey for M. L. Weems, are to be insured by the former at the expense of the latter.

3. M. L. Weems engages to make remittances as speedily as possible after the receipt of the Books, through the hands of John Grammar,[3] at Petersburg, & of Timothy Brundige[4] at Dumfries, whose receipts respectively are to be valid against Mathew Carey. Should W. B. Magruder,[5] of Georgetown, undertake to remit any part of the Money to Mathew Carey, his receipts are to be equally valid. Mason Locke Weems.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

En chemin, Apr. 7, 1796.

Dear Carey, — I took coffee this morning with an Amiable Relative in the vicinity of Wilmington, whom I call[d] on sometime ago as an Auxillary to our Goldsmith Subscription business. The lady I allude to is

delphia: Printed by William W. Woodward . . . 1796. NYPL. Judging by subsequent references to Burkitt in the letters, and by the fact that both Carey and Weems had business relations with Woodward, it seems probable that this is the edition here referred to. That Weems had sought earlier to reprint one of Burkitt's works himself is attested in the following entry from Rev. William Duke's Diary: 'Dec. 1793. . . . In the afternoon offered Mr. Weems's subscription paper for reprinting Burket [*sic*] to several people.' It is impossible to tell whether the book here referred to is the *Notes on the Testament* above, or the *Poor Man's Help and Rich Man's Guide*, nor have I any proof that Weems' project succeeded.

[1] *The General Atlas for Carey's Edition of Guthrie's Geography improved*, Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, May 1, 1795, APHS. (*Bibliography, title 246.*)

[2] *Meditations and Contemplations* . . . By James Hervey, A.M. Late Rector of Weston-favel, in England. Perhaps Isaiah Thomas's Worcester edition of 1789. (*Bibliography, title 247.*)

[3] Postmaster of Petersburg, Va. See *Record Book No. 1*, P.O.Bldg., Washington, D. C. — Postmaster, Clerk of Common Council, one of the subscribers to Union Street Church in 1823, though not a member of the church. See *The Story of a Church, A History of Washington Street Church, Petersburg, Virginia, 1773–1923*, P. H. Drewry, B.A., Petersburg, 1923, p. 73, LC. — John Grammer, 1754–1835, first clerk of the hustings court of Petersburg, holding the office for over 51 years; first postmaster of Petersburg. See *Memorials of Old Virginia Clerks*, F[*rederick*] Johnston, Lynchburg, Va., 1888, pp. 293–295, LC. — 'The removal of Mr. [*John*] Grammar from the post-office of this place [*Petersburg, Va.*] . . . excited the most lively feelings . . .' *Washington Federalist*, Feb. 27, 1804, LC. As the records show no such break in his office holding, this announcement may have been only such a *canard* as is easily explained by the bitter feeling then running rife between the Federalists and the triumphant Jeffersonian Democrats.

[4] Timothy Brundige, postmaster, Dumfries, Va., Feb. 16, 1790 (first return) — 1820 +, *Post Office Record Book No. 1*, p. 152, P.O.Bldg., Washington, D. C.

[5] William B. Magruder, Postmaster of

Mrs. Mary Wharton, Flesh and Bone to the Rev'd D'r Wharton [1] of famous memory — My good Coz Mrs. W. has obtaind for us the following Subscribers: . . .

My Coz. Polly says that she will distribute (by her Coachman I suppose) these 13 or 14 copies, and will in propria persona pay unto you the *amount* by *Whitsuntide*, when she intends to be in Philadelphia, provided you will but *furnish* her the copies a week or two *before* that season. How happy shd I be if you cou'd get them bound, as indeed I know we *both* wish, in the style of Campbells Hume.[2] Let the moment, in which they shall be bound, see them on board one of the Wilmington packets, addressd to — Mrs. *Mary Wharton*, Prospect Hill near Wilmington.[3] Prithee Carey if thou lovest me, dispatch my letters of yesterday to the Rev'd & Lay Gentlemen as directed & with one of the 1st. Vol of Goldsmith to each. And do, my *dear Fellow*, run if thou canst

Georgetown, Va., appointed Feb. 16, 1790, and seems to have served until 1797. See *Chronicles of Georgetown*, Richard P. Jackson, Washington, 1878, p. 101, LC.

[1] The well-known Dr. Charles Henry Wharton's wife, *née* Weems, no nearer than a second cousin, as far as I can discover, of M.L.W. — Dr. Wharton, educated to be a Roman Catholic priest, recanted and became an Episcopal clergyman, officiating for many years at Burlington, N. J. See *Remains of C. H. Wharton*, by George Washington Doane, Philadelphia, 1834; also a sketch by the same author in *Annals of the American Pulpit*, by W. B. Sprague, Vol. V, pp. 335–340. — He was the author of the often reprinted *Poetical Epistle to his Excellency George Washington.* (*Bibliography, title 1, note 2.*) — Records of various members of the Weems kinship acting as witnesses to Dr. Wharton's signature to legal papers throw some light on the intimacy between the two families. See *Logan papers*, Vol. 32, HSP.

[2] *The History of England, from The Revolution to the End of the American War, . . . Designed as a Continuation of Mr. Hume's History.* By T. Smollett, M.D., and others. . . . Philadelphia: Printed for Robert Campbell & Co. by Henry Sweitzer, M.DCC.XCVI. LC. — Weems read as well as sold Hume; see letter of Aug. 24, 1796, following. He calls him 'that ornament of Scotland' in his *Life of Washington*, Greene & English edition 1800, pp. 65–66, *f.n.* So strong was his advocacy of Hume that in 1818 we find him trying to push his work upon the public: 'The reverend Mr. Weems called on me a few days ago on the subject of your letter of Oct. 6 [*concerning an edition of Hume*] . . . and received the same answer which I had given to yourself in mine of the 25th. . . .' Thomas Jefferson to Mathew Carey, Nov. 22, 1818, LC. It was rare in those days for a clergyman of this country to approve of Hume, and Weems thus early showed his outgrowth of dogmatic prejudices. '. . . Ne'er control'd by superstition's laws, The worst of tyrants in the noblest cause.' *Lines on General Washington from a London paper, reprinted in the Baltimore Daily Repository, July 10, 1792*, HSP.

[3] On Apr. 16, 1796, Mrs. Wharton wrote from Prospect Hill, near Wilmington: 'Revd Mr Weems put into my hands some time ago a Subscription paper for Goldsmith's *History of the Earth & Animated Nature*.' — L. & F.

over to Johnson and tell him to send instantly to dispatch my books to Balt°. Beg him to inclose in the box the handsome copy of Buchan's family Physician [1] which I have left thro forgetfulness either in *your* store or in *his*. I know you will not forget thy Friend,

best wishes to Mrs. Carey.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

BALTIMORE May 12, [17]96.

DEAR CAREY. I have toiled hard since I saw you, and thank God have not toiled in vain. . . . [*A list of 184 subscribers.*]

The above are on *my own* paper. I have deposited many papers and in very good hands. Since yesterday morning I have obtain'd Seventy odd *sterling* subscriptions in this Town. (Balt.°) — I intend to stay a day or two longer and then call in the aid of some 3 or 4 substantial Auxillary *Gleaners*.

Be so good as to let me know, by the next mail to Dumfries, when the Books will be ready, and when I may expect them *on a Certainty* — ON A CERTAINTY — at Norfolk, Petersburg & Richmond. O that this work were in such an advance that we cou'd Sett about Rollin.[2] No book wd succeed better!

Wishing you much health & happiness and an equal portion of the same blessing to Mrs. C. & Family, I remain,

Dear Carey, your

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

May 16, 1796.

> . . . For reasons I shall not at present detail I do not feel disposed to undertake Rollin. But I have in contemplation a more feasible, & lucrative project. In which I shall join you, provided you adopt the generous rule of *live* and *let live*.

[1] *Ad.* 'Just Received, and for sale by J. Harrisson . . . Buchan's Family Physician. . . .' *Weekly Museum* (New York), Aug. 5, 1797. Reprinted Dec. 23, 1797, LC.

[2] Probably *The Ancient History of the Egyptians, Carthaginians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Medes, and Persians, Macedonians, and Grecians*, a work in eight volumes by Charles Rollin (1661–1741). The LC. has Hartford, 1815 edition. *Carey's Catalogue* for 1818 lists a Boston 1807 edition, but I have never discovered that he published one himself.

May 27, 1796.

A project of considerable importance, with respect to Guthrie's Geography,[1] which might be carried into immediate operation, makes me desirous of seeing you, as soon as convenience will allow you to direct your peregrinations hither.

May 31, 1796.

I have written you two letters lately recommending a return to the City as soon as convenient. To spur you on I judge it may not be improper to communicate the plan I have in contemplation, which is to open a subscription in Virginia, Maryland, & North Carolina for Guthrie's Geog[*raphy*] the *present edition* — and to receive subscriptions at 13 dollars exclusive of the binding. . . .

The present edition is every way preferable to holding out an Idea of [*a*] new one for if a new one was undertaken, it would be tedious & troublesome — & a year or two would be necessary before it could be completed. If a new one was promised, & still the present one delivered, it would be dishonest & disreputable. By announcing & giving the present one, the subscribers know what they are to expect — and still more the books can be ready as fast as they are subscribed for.

Should you deem this project of sufficient importance to render it worth while to make a pilgrimage here, we can safely digest it more completely. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 23.

BALTIMORE. May 16, [*17*]96.

DEAR CAREY — . . . [*A list of 59 subscribers.*]

Had I the speed of a sunbeam I w[d] instantly make you a visit. I want to put a definite touch to our treaty of Amity Commerce &c.[2] I observ[d] to you in our last interview that much good might be done to the public and much pleasure and profit might be reflected on ourselves, by replenishing the earth with Proper Books. I hinted [*at*] the great advantage of calling in the aid of Mercantile Gentlemen of Probity & Property. You seem[d] to like the proposition and offer[d] to give me a Moiety of the profits, after fair deduction of prime costs. I said — Well, provided the books were deliver[d] to me at the towns &[c]. to which the packets ply. Now my good Friend I have but one more condition,

[1] *A New System of Modern Geography*, by William Guthrie, Esq., Philadelphia, Mathew Carey, 1794–1795, LC. (*Bibliography, title 242.*)

[2] An allusion to John Jay's Treaty with Great Britain, much mooted at that moment of its publication.

and that I trust you will deem no unreasonable one — Your books, we will suppose, are deposited in the hands of an honest Merchant. Sh^d the flames merciless element! sublimate them to the 3^d heaven you will not, I shall expect, singe my unoffending pocket. Sh^d hungry moths or half starv^d rats cram their pouches with your letter^d paper, you will not, I shall expect, make me pay the reckoning.

No. Well, then, all's well.

Since I saw you, I have talk^d with several Gentlemen on our propos^d plan. Several and those *proper Fellows* too, are ready to cooperate with us if you think well of it. M^r. Lennox Martin, old school mate and Friend of mine, and which is more Brother to our famous Attorney General, Luther Martin, I say this aforesaid, Lenox Martin, Merch^t, well [*able?*] to live 4000£ at least in purse, is willing to join us. I am to allow him 12½ pr. cent commission & take back the unsold. You may repose the most entire confidence in him. If you are willing you can immediately send 3, 4 or 500 Dollars worth forming an assortment of such books as you may approve and not more than half a dozen of each kind. Pocket Atlases,[1] Maps, &c.

What thou dost do quickly. Address them to Lenox Martin, Montgomery County, to care of Rev. John Hagerty,[2] Baltimore.

L. Martin is a Man of great weight among that numerous and good People, the *Methodists*. Mark the books at 5 per Cent above the Philad^a prices, tell him so in your invoice & desire him not to sell them higher. I know you will recommend to him the importance of establishing a reputation for cheapness.

Be pleas^d to remember that I hope to get 200 Subscribers in this flourishing town. This hour I set out for Annapolis. The Genius of success attend me.

I coud wish you w^d not dispose of any of our [*Herveys?*]. I hope before I see you to cover the whole 800, — I have got my subscription papers.

With best wishes to M^rs. C. I remain, D^r. Carey,

[1] *Carey's American Pocket Atlas*, Philadelphia, printed for Mathew Carey, 1796. The LC. has first and several subsequent editions.

[2] A minister of some prominence in the Methodist Episcopal itineracy, and a printer and bookseller of Baltimore, born 1747, died 1823. He printed for Weems the third edition of his *God's Revenge against Gambling*, 1815, and the 1815 edition of his *Life of Marion*. (*Bibliography, titles 190, 87.*)

L. & F. Vol. 23.

[*Virginia? June, 1796?*]

So far so good. From the present appearance of things I promise myself that I shall be able to procure you a thousand Good Subscriptions in this State alone. A Saint George Tucker,[1] (Lecturer on the Federal Constitution in William & Mary College, Williamsb^g, and one of the Circuit Judges) wishes to know whether you will engage to print an handsome edition of Blackstone on Laws of England,[2] improved by Notes and Appendixes &^c. showing how far the Laws are interwoven with those of our Federal government. I consulted Bishop Madison,[3] who, I find entertains a very favorable opinion of Judge Tucker, and strenuously advises me to undertake it as a very useful Work. I did not fail to sound some Gentlemen on the Subject, most of whom express^d an ardent wish to possess such a book. I told M^r. Tucker that I w^d let *you* know the result of our conversation. For my own part I have no doubt but such an edition of Blackstone w^d succeed to admiration in *this* State. And perhaps, it might not pass unnoticed by the Literary and Professional Characters *throughout the union*. However, that is submitted to your more matured Judgment. M^r. Tucker says that this work shall not exceed 4 Octav^o of 700 pag. each and that the whole of it shall be in readiness for the press in one 12 Month from this date.

[1] St. Geo. Tucker: Lieut.-Col. of militia in the Revolution, a resident of Williamsburg; Professor of Law at William and Mary College, 1791; his *Commentaries on Blackstone*, 1804, was the first American text book on law. See *History of Virginia*, Vol. II, Lyon Gardiner Tyler, American Historical Society, 1924, pp. 219, 263, 330, 513, 533, LC. Also *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*, New York, 1915, Vol. II, p. 34, LC. For a note on *Commentaries* see *William and Mary College Quarterly*, IV, pp. 103–105, LC. — One of the well-born Virginians who made good in public and private life. He became the stepfather of John Randolph of Roanoke, and was respected, trusted and beloved by his wife's children by her first husband, in whose lives he is supposed to have had a shaping influence for good. For many interesting details of him and his family relations, see *John Randolph of Roanoke*, William Cabell Bruce, New York and London, 1922, LC.

[2] Carey let this opportunity slip into other hands: *Ad.* 'Judge Tucker's Blackstone. Proposals for publishing an American edition . . . Commentaries. . . . By St. George Tucker. . . . Publishers . . . William Young. Birch . . . Abraham Small.' *Examiner* (Richmond), Oct. 6, 1802, VSrL. — 'This day is published . . . Tucker's Blackstone. . . .' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Sept. 1, 1804, VSrL.

[3] James Madison, 1749–1812, first bishop of Virginia (elected, 1790) and fourth in succession in the United States. See *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, Boston, The Biographical Society, 1904, LC.

M^r. Dobson [1] was consulted but his charges did not give satisfaction. I wish you coud agree with M^r. Tucker & as soon as you can. Address your letter to him at Williamsb^g, & the sooner the better, as he is shortly to recommence his tour of duty. My best wishes attend yourself, Lady & family. I have a great many more subscriptions to Goldsmith and all good.

Yours, D^r. Carey,

. . . [*A list of subscribers.*] Shall thank you to print the above Names, which are all of the Sterling kind — I am coming up. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 23.

GEO. TOWN, June 3^d. 1796.

DEAR CAREY . . . [*A list of 142 subscribers*] *ça ira. Allons!* I sent you a 2^d letter from Balt^o. with perhaps 60 Names, which I hope you receiv^d. I have pick^d up two and thirty trusty Patrons in this place, and having commission^d a couple of substantial Vicegerents I shall dicamp in a few Minutes and try my fortune in Fredericksburg whence I hope, deo adjuvante, to send you another decent list, and to take my departure for Richmon^d, Petersburg, Norfolk &^c. &^c. to receive your books.

I trust that M^r. Gramar will give you a pretty comfortable account both of my industry & punctuality. "List, O! List," I am on principle a Dessiminator of valuable books.

I think that by cooperation with you I shall be able to do more of my favourite business than I otherwise coud, hence, perhaps I may pretty roundly assert, that even tho the Diety existed not in my distempered imagination, and my mind had lost all sense of the beauty and importance of moral virtue, yet, w^d I, *as a Man of this world*, treat you with honor, because it w^d in fact be treating *myself* with *kindness*. I have now I trust about one thousand subscribers. I told a M^r. Solomon

[1] 'Thomas Dobson gave the first impulse to book printing among us. He . . . came from Scotia, soon after the peace.' *Annals of Philadelphia, and Pennsylvania* . . . John F. Watson. Enlarged by Willis P. Hazard. Philadelphia, 1898, Vol. II, p. 400, LC. — 'Mr. Thomas Dobson has published the first part of the first volume of the supplement to the Encyclopaedia.' Literary Intelligence in *Monthly Magazine & American Review*, Vol. II, New York, 1800, p. 398, LC. See also *Philadelphia Directory*, 1823, LC.

Myers [1] Printer of little York, Pennsylvania, that we wd, on condition of his giving you *security*, furnish him with books, — Indeed he has now of my books (with 10 sets of Blair [2] included), in his possession about 200 Dol. worth. Shd you hear anything of him on the score of books, you will no doubt take the security, and by tacking to yours, a security for the 200 Dol. above mentiond, you will oblige

Your sincere Friend,

My best wishes to Mrs. Carey.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

DUMFRIES, June 6, 1796.

DEAR CAREY, Yesterday for the first time I read your friendly epistles. Their contents I have markd and markd with pleasure. I do not entirely like the idea of making, as you humorously term it, a *pilgrimage* to Philadelphia tho I well know that it wd not be, as the word implies, of the *penitentiary* sort. 'Tis now too late in the day to return. My earliest and very numerous Patrons of Goldsmith are now wondering what the D——l is become of me and of the books from which I taught them to expect so much pleasure. Hope deferd maketh the heart sick — and when once the heart becomes sick the animal spirits must flag of course, and then all the heroic *ardours for subscribing are no more!*

Think of that, Master Shallow, think of that. Tis on this account that I am well pleasd with the idea of undertaking a book which having passd through its puny stages of embryo foetus and infant will so soon enable me to give a perfect Man to the World. In brief, I am your Man for the *present edition* of Guthrie. It were well to be sure to discuss the terms, i.e. to understand the compensation which you mean to make me for beating up the head quarters of all the good old Planters & Farmers of Maryland, Virginia & N. Carolina; for as to the large towns little

[1] Notice that subscriptions for *The Hive* will be received 'at Yorktown, by Mr. Solomon Myer. . . .' *Hive* (Lancaster, Pa.), May 31, 1797, LCHS. — *Ad.* 'To the Amateurs of the Fine Arts The following proposals for Publishing, a full length Portrait of Thomas Jefferson, Esq. . . . submitted, by George Helmbold . . . Subscriptions are received . . . In Yorktown by Solomon Myer . . .' *Epitome of the Times* (Norfolk, Va.), Mar. 17, 1801, HU.

[2] *Sermons, by Hugh Blair, D.D.*, Two volumes, re-printed for the Rev. M. L. Weems, Baltimore, Samuel and John Adams, 1792–1793. (*Bibliography, titles 229, 230.*)

villages &c. they are I suppose pretty well gutted already. I say it were well to understand the compensation &c. but we are now too remote from each other, neither have we time, for if anything is to be done in this affair of Guthrie it *sh*d *be done while I am* distributing Goldsmith. Let this suffice.

You were generous to me in this business of Goldsmith. I do not expect you to be quite so much so in the present propos[d] Work. But tho I may not have entered into the vineyard before the *eleventh hour*, yet I promise myself that when the evening of payment comes you will not hold me unworthy of a handsome Penny. Allons donc. Draw me up 300 elegant subscription papers — no man more capable than yourself. I sh[d] like to see an eloquent little preamble on the pleasures and advantages which a Gentleman may promise himself from so complete a system of Geography. I see you have pass[d] over the pretty little history of the revolution contained in your edition of Guthrie. I think it were well to mention it in your proposals. You talk of 13 Dol. exclusive of binding. I *must* you know have them bound. You will be pleased to send me on to Petersburg in company with Gold[sth]. a copy *handsomely bound*. I think you sh[d] inform the Public in your subscription paper, that they will be rais[d] to Non Subscribers.

I wish you coud have me a Subscription paper neatly bound up in a covering of red leather. I shall pay for it. Set them perhaps at 15 Dol. handsomely bound. however it is all well in your hands. I expect to cruise about here a few days and in a fortnight hence to set out for Petersburg.

I have a good many more subscribers for Goldsmith. Be pleas[d] to tell M[r]. Bailey to address his letters to me at Dumfries, at which place & at all others I am your's,

I have been happy in my choice of Auxilliaries for Goldsmith, hear of great doing[*s*].

[From Carey] *L. & F.* June 15, 1796.

. . . I enclose you a subscription paper [*for Guthrie*] . . .

The terms on which I offer you these, to allow you one fourth of the whole retail price for your profit & trouble, a fourth will rest with me for

my agency in the business and the half will defray expenses of paper, printing, & binding.

Although I know it is foreign from you[r] disposition, I am most heartily in favour of selling at Philada's retail prices. It is not only more fair & honest, but like all other honesty, ultimately more profitable. You have read, and can not have forgotten the fable of the goose with golden eggs. It might not be unworthy of you to derive a usefull lesson from it. Subscriptioneering is the goose; profit the Eggs; Avarice, which displays herself in high prices, is the butcher that wants to have all the Eggs at once. If you are moderate with me & the public, I feel perfectly satisfied, that you may realize two thousand dollars per year & *retain the goose in good & improving condition.* Whereas by grasping at too much you will dry up the source of profit wholly . . .

In all our subscriptioneering for the future, I believe it will be well to have four or five books on the tapis at once; by which means more may be done in one County than could otherwise be done in three; for it is fairly presumable that the taste for reading which leads a man to subscribe for one Book will lead him equally to subscribe for others. . . .

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DUMFRIES, June 22, 1796.

SIR. I do now, more clearly than ever, perceive the Solomonian Wisdom (a good match for your pretty little hobby — Subscriptioneering) of those learned bodies who insist on a strict examination of their Candidates before they allow them to *dash away* in the high concerns of the health, Wealth and moral-mending professions. But for these salutary precautions what a sort of work w[d] such inexperienced Younkers make of it — sometimes Sangrado like, bleeding and hot-watering an Anasarcous patient! Or Methodist-like bawling hell and damnation against Mourners in Zion, poor gentle spirits, whose hearts already tremble at the thought of transgression! ! !

Here have you been preaching to me a long lecture on moderation; to *me* forsooth who have no more need of it than an Angel has of a Death head or a memento mori, for you know that my soul is a stranger to all avaricious passions. However, as we sh[d] look rather at the intention than the effect, I feel no disposition to withhold the acknowledgments due to your learned lecture and were it not for the special advantages which the Public and your grateful servant may derive from you as a Bibli-

opolist, I should like to see you in Canonicals, and, high on a desk of clerical state, dissuading Sinners from the error of their ways.

I am sorry that you have so hastily dismiss[d] the affair of Guthrie. I cou'd soon have gotten you 3 or 500 subscribers for that work at 16 Dollars, and shoud have been satisfied with a fourth, on condition of having had the books delivered to me in Virginia. Perhaps it were better, not loosing sight of our goose, to resume that work. It may be eggs of gold in your pocket, and of silver in mine.

As to the other books, I have no objection to anything about them, except the exceeding moderateness of the premium; however that was a mistake not easily avoidable after so long a discourse on moderation. But as the Peace Makers shall be blest, let what may, become of the Booksellers. I am still your man for those books; provided they be deliver[d] to me in Virginia & Maryland on your own account, and one set in eight at a somewhat abated price in order to help me out a little in feeding my book-devouring Auxilliaries who you know must have a set for every Six or eight subscribers. — But for sweet heaven's sake my dear fellow, let us have something more substantial than talking and writing, especially at this *glorious season* when every biped in these latitudes, but ourselves, is thrusting in his sickle and loading him with heavy sheaves. O let me hear, by the very next post, that our books and subscription papers are on board, and to the following addresses, viz.

100 Copies to care M[r]. Robert Pollard, Richmond,[1]
100 Copies to care M[r]. Gramar, Petersburgh &
100 Copies to care Cap[t]. Jame[s]. Tucker, Norfolk.[2]

[1] Robert Pollard of Richmond: elected recorder there, 1788; named a trustee of Richmond Academy, 1803; one of the first directors of The Bank of Virginia, incorporated 1804; named by Gov. Barbour a director for the State of the Farmers Bank of Virginia, 1812; one of the receivers for subscriptions for the Monumental Church commemorating the great fire, 1812, and one of the first two wardens, 1814; a director of the Richmond branch of the National Bank, the first national bank in the state, 1817; one of the committee to arrange for the funeral of Col. James Monroe, 1831; in funeral procession for Justice Marshall, 1835. See *Richmond, Her Past and Present*, William Asbury Christian, D.D., 1912, LC. — 'James River Company. . . . Robert Pollard, Clerk, June 5, 1795.' *Richmond and Manchester Advertiser*, June 20, 1795, HU. — 'Delegates to the ensuing General Assembly . . . King William [*Co.*] R. Pollard.' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* (Virginia), May 7, 1799, AAS.

[2] 'James Tucker has just received . . . a general assortment of Goods suitable to the season. . . .' *Norfolk Herald* (Virginia), Jan. 16, 1802 *et seq.*, NORPL.

Tucker & Pollard are wealthy and honorable Merchants, Friends of mine, of the Towns wherein they reside. But send them to any others that you may prefer. Had I my choice, I w^d like to co-operate with you *in Guthrie*. Think of that. —

I set off tomorrow for Winchester, Martinsburg, Shepherds town, Leesburg, &^c. In all which places I hope for the success which, God be thank^d, has all along attended me. In ten days you shall get a letter from me and from this place, laden with a noble list of subscribers. At that time I shall expect a letter from you urging me on to the work on James River. I mean in Richmond, Petersb^g & Norfolk, whence I hope in three or four weeks time to collect you your portion betwixt 1500 & 2000 Dollars, payable, as I wish you w^d order Gramar, as I take up the books from him, after the first 50 sets. You know I must have a few to begin with.

I say again that I shall be back (God willing) in 10 or 12 days and then shall expect to find orders here from you to proceed to Richmond. &^c. &^c.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

FREDERICK TOWN, MARYLAND. (Western Shore)
[*Postmarked July 6, filed after June 22, 1796.*]

DEAR CAREY: In the tail of the above letter, by D^r Tyler,[1] permit me to insert a word or two by way of introducing to your friendship & confidence that amiable and useful Citizen. D^r Tyler is a practising Physician and Surgeon of this flourishing town, in which his merits both as a Gentleman and Professional character have secured to him all the advantages of public esteem and of independent competence. About six weeks ago I left in his hands a subscription paper or two for Goldsmith, and am very happy to find that providence has smiled so bounteously on his friendly exertions in my behalf. In a few days he means to transmit to you the sum total of his subscriptions. As I have so far overcome Dr. T's generous reluctance, as to obtain, tho with difficulty, his assent thereto, I mean to *compliment* him with one copy for every eight Subscribers. You will therefore be pleased to send on in the trunks an additional copy at that [*rate*]. And you will likewise be pleas'd to point out to D^r Tyler whether he shall send on, or reserve, till I call on him, the

[1] Dr. John Tyler, Frederick County. See *U. S. Census*, 1790, Maryland, p. 68, 1c.

monies arising from the distribution of these books. I shall call as I journey from James River to Philadelphia.

Yours with much respect

Best wishes attend Mrs. Carey & family

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

June 27, 1796.

Goldsmith at length draws to a close. On Wednesday the last [*sheet?*] goes to press. In one week afterwards, there will be nearly a hundred sets bound — and thenceforwards abundance to answer every demand.

With respect to Guthrie, I am very irresolute. I am afraid we should have too many Irons in the fire, if that were added to our other objects. I regret exceedingly that you have not pilgrimaged hither, agreeably to my earnest request. We should have been able to digest some extensive & profitable plans, were we face to face, & probably Guthrie might then come in play. I shall about three weeks hence proceed to the eastward, & be absent for about a month. It is very unfortunate, therefore, that you have not given me a previous meeting. Should there be still an opportunity, I strongly urge you to come. I shall leave Philadelphia about the 15th or 16th of July.

On the chapter of Moderation want of leisure prevents me from addressing you at present.

July 1st. 1796.

I embrace another opportunity of urging my desire of seeing you previous to my departure for New England. It would probably be attended with manifold advantages. The whole business of supplying the stores in Maryland & Virginia, which, if properly arranged, might be rendered highly advantageous, is suspended till we have an interview; as I could not think of sending to all quarters of the antient dominion & her sister such a large property as would be requisite without the most specific agreement. Thus, this plan & the Geography, & other things equally valuable, must lie dormant till after my return, which will be very late in august, you may calculate the pro & con of the business; as (no offence to your exemplary moderation) your abilities at calculations of this kind are truly *solomonial.*

To afford you the better chance of coming, I shall postpone my journey till monday the 18th of July.

I don't expect to have any of Goldsmith bound before next tuesday.

. . .

July 4, 1796.

The more I consider the subject the more fully I am convinced that your declining to come here, previous to my departure, should you persist in your determination, will prove highly injurious to the common cause. Had we the time settled, on which to supply the stores you contemplated to furnish, I should direct my exchanges in N York & N E[*ngland*], with a view to that object whereas in the present unsettled state of the business, it w^d^ be madness to make any arrangements, which our probable disagreement about the terms might render prejudicial.

Lest however, you should continue determined not to visit Phila^a^, before my departure I choose to adopt the best measure, and to communicate by letter a few of the outlines of my Plan: — to which I must have an answer by the end of next week.

1^st^ I shall supply you with moderate quantities of such american Editions as I shall print myself or can procure in Ex^a^ at a discount from the fair, honest, & current retail prices, of one fourth or 25 per cent.

2^nd^. I shall expect the remittances to be as early, as prompt, and copious as possible.

3^d^. the books, when delivered to you, to be at your own risque.

These are the principle heads. Want of leisure prevents me from a more ample detail. But were you to come here the whole business might be settled in half a day.

I have some expectations of procuring 3, 4 or 500 copies of Walkers Sermons [1] in Ex^a^. Is it not probable you could procure subscribers for the whole.

P.S. there are five binders hard at work on Goldsmith.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Saturday, July 9^th^. 1796.

This is to let thee know, most noble Felix, that I am this hour returned from my transalpine excursion. Tomorrow, the Sabbath of the Lord, I mean to spend, as in duty bound in sweet Christian-like repose; but the earliest dawn of the following day shall see me (d.v.) mounted & beating my solitary way to Philad^a^ City. I write this to let thee know that I am coming according to thy request, and to assure thee that it grieveth me much that thy letters to me on this subject have lain so long

[1] *Sermons on practical subjects*, by Robert Walker, Philadelphia, R. Aitken & son, 1790, LC. The CHS. has 'first American edition,' Albany, John McDonald, 1796–1797.

unread and p^r^ consequence natural, unanswer^d^. . . . [*A list of 120 subscribers*] . . .

I suppose that thou hast e'er this receiv^d^ a very goodly list of subscrib^s^. from D^r^. Tyler of Frederick town, and from sundry other potent hands. Parce puer stimulis, I.E. Don't mount thy sacrilegeous car untill thou see thy Friend

best wishes attend M^rs^. C. & family. Shall thank you to tell Friend Bailey that I am coming.

[FROM CAREY] *L. & F.*
July 19, 1796.

. . . I. You will embrace every opportunity that offers of making remittances through the post Office.

II. At Dumfries, M^r^. Brundige at Petersburg M^r^. Grammar — and probably at Georgetown, M^r^. Magruder, will receive the money & transmit it to me. Their receipts respectively will be good against me.

III. In other places you will cut your bank notes transversley — and send them half by one Mail & the residue by the succeeding one

IV. I strongly request & enjoin on you, that you will from Baltimore at least remit me the entire proceeds of the books you deliver, & draw your own compensation from those you distribute afterwards.

V. Embrace every opportunity by post or otherwise to communicate full information of your progress.

L. & F. Vol. 23.
MIDDLE TOWN. July 23. [*17*]96.

DEAR CAREY. Saturday morning 7 o Clock. I am this moment come up from the boat at Appoquinimink where we arriv^d^ in safety last night about 12 O Clock. On being inform^d^ that the boat in the Chesapeake w^d^ sail at 10 this morning I immediately set out in the true hibernian style (foot in hand,) and am now at the house of M^r^. Maxwell [1] of Middle town whose name (and let me tell you a very honorable name it is) I mention^d^

[1] Robert Maxwell, State Senator from New Castle Co. 1801; member of the State House of Representatives, New Castle Co. in 1795. See *History of the State of Delaware*, Henry C. Conrad, Wilmington, Del., 1908, pp. 264, 272, LC. — Postmaster, Middletown, Del., Mar. 20, 1793 (first return) — 1796. See *P.O.Rec.Bk.No. 1*, p. 364, P.O.Bldg., Washington, D. C. — *Ad.* 'The People are respectfully informed, that subscriptions for this paper are taken in by . . . Mr. Maxwell . . . Middleton . . .' *Delaware & Eastern Shore Advertiser*, Apr. 1, 1795, HU.

among those three or four to whom I could wish you immediately to send some books.

Mr. Maxwell is a Man of handsome fortune, a Methodist, tho far more liberal and inlightened than his brethren in general, and as amiable [*and*] generous a fellow as you have seen since you left dear Ireland.

Mr Maxwell tells me that since I was speaking to him the other day about taking your books to dispose of on Commission, he had mentiond it to some of his more wealthy Neighbours who expressd a great deal of pleasure at the idea of having a book store in the Neighbourhood. A book store is a thing uncommon in these parts, and may take well. . . .

Best love attend yourself & family

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Baltº. July 28. [17]96.

Dr. Carey — I am happy, but, confound that but, every man, Woman and Child in this cross graind world must stumble over that unlucky block. I am happy I say, but not in the superlative degree. I send you money — there's happiness — but I do not send you so much as I wish merely because of a villainous unexpected accident. There is a great deal of the Georgetown & Alexandria bank money here, and Debtors are very willing to pay that and nothing else. Now here is my situation, in these three days past I have distributed six hundred dollars worth of Books, nearly the whole of which I have gotten and [*sic*] in the Alexandria & Georgetown notes, neither of which will pass with you. With much difficulty however I have obtained three hundred and fifty dollars in exchange for the above mentioned southern notes, and those 350 dollars I now send you according to direction. I have sent you two trunks of Blairs Sermons folded & stitched &c. &c. they may be of use to us by & by.

Mr. James Wilson of Wilmington, your Binder bound some books, *little* books chiefly, for me; Drain[d] of money by my old Friends Messrs Adams I really had it not so conveniently in my power to pay him tho the debt was but a small one. I wish you wd in your next letter to him desire him to send up the balance of the little books to you, and as I shall, I trust, bring you in debt to me on the score of Goldsmith, you

may settle that small Debt for me — I mean in 4 or 6 weeks from this date.

In the course of the next week I hope I shall send you 600 Dollars. The trunks are much hurt, for want of good matting — and the books for want of papering on the sides.

God willing I hope to give you a good account of Goldsmith in the course of these 5 weeks. . . .

Much love to your Lady & family

Yours sincerely

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Balt°. 30. July, [17]96.

Dear Sir. Haste great haste will not allow me to expatiate on the pleasure I feel in sending you monies and thereby convincing you that I am not utterly unworthy of the great confidence which you have been pleas[d] to repose in me.

I sent you by post two days ago 350 Dol. I now send you 320 Dol. more. I have a good many more by me but can't get them chang'd without losing much of my time. Shall write to you soon again — am now setting out for Annapolis — I wish all the Binders wou'd bind their books with the neat irregular octagons on the backs.

Yours, dear Sir,

In the Spirit of health & fratermity,

[To Mrs. Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Annapolis. 1 Aug. [*1796.*]

		Dol.
Dear Madam,[1]	I sent you last thursday —	350
	& on Saturday —	320
	And now August 1[st]. I send you	175
	Total	845

I set off this morning for Georgetown & Alexandria, whence I hope to send you, or *to cause to be* sent to you by Magruder & Brundige, (as

[1] During Carey's absence in New England his wife evidently attended to his correspondence and shipments.

directed by Mr. Carey) such monies as it may please heaven to enable me to send to you —

I hope you & Messrs. King & Moore will take care and not let me be idle for want of work — i.e. I hope you will forward on the books to Alexandria 300 Setts — to Richmond 100, to Norfolk 70. Woud God the books coud all be bound *exactly* alike, i.e. the irregular octagons on the back with the green or blue ground, every body is best pleasd with them — O Remember that everybody is best pleasd with them, and our success greatly depends on pleasing our Patrons. Besides, believe me, dear Madam, it wd save me an infinity of trouble in matching the books, which after all my trouble & loss of time get mismatched and interrupt my sales. Time to us is precious. Send me on in each of the trunks to Richmond, Petersburg Norfolk & Alexandria a complete copy of Guthrie (to serve as a specimen) and half a dozen of our little subscription books.

Wishing you much health & happiness, I remain, Dr. Madam,

Your sincere Friend

I promised Mr. Bailey 50 Dollars shall thank you to give him that small sum — We shall both be gainers by it. Yours

best wishes to Messrs. King & Moore. &c. &c.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

ALEXANDRIA. Aug. 3d. [*1796.*]

DEAR MADAM: . . . I desired you in my last to furnish my Friend Bailey with 50 Dol. on my account. I shall thank you to send for Mr. Conrad [1] the Binder, and tell him that the little parcel of two hundred Duodo. Vols. which I put into his hands, he need not finish yet awhile. I trust that this instance of disappointment will suggest the importance of having the books forwarded in due season. I must have 300 Sets at the least, sent to this place, i.e. Alexandria. Woud God all the books cou'd be bound *alike*, ornamented on the back with the irregular octagons and a green or blue or red ground. While that diversity of binding prevails, I shall see no end to my trouble & vexation, in matching them, and after all, mismatching will abound. It likewise opens a wide door to

[1] John Conrad published a *Correct Map of the Seat of War.* [*n.d.*] Philadelphia, APHS. Moses & John Conrad & Co. advertised in the *Telegraphe* (Baltimore), Sept. 19, 1804 *et seq.* as publishers of Judge Cranch's Reports, PIL.

murmurs & discountents among the Subscribers, many of whom are already very vociferous in their complaints against me, for giving their neighbours the handsomest books. Dr. Tyler of Frederick town Maryland is I dare say very impatient for his 60 sets. Send him some of as handsome copies as you can — he is a very particular Gentleman, &, if pleasd, can be eminently our friend. In each trunk send him a subscription paper or two for Guthrie and one or two handsome copies of Guthrie & be pleasd to tell him from me that he shall have one copy for every eight subscriptions.

Present my best wishes to Messrs. King & Moore, beg them to guard well the sides of the trunks with paper, and their exteriors with mats, otherwise neither trunks nor books will be of *much* value by the time they get to Fredericktown. They have greatly injured 2 or 3 Sets already thro neglect of these wholesome prescriptions. But I don't expect any great change for the better, for were I to preach to them for a twelve month I should hardly be able to persuade them that they have to learn the art of book packing from your & their

Sincere friend

L. & F. Vol. 23.

ALEXANDRIA Aug. 10, [17]96.

DEAR MADAM. . . . On Monday morning the eagerly expected notification arrived — the Books were come — I hastend up to town and yesterday morning began to distribute — my success has been good. I have gotten about 400 Dollars of which I can send you but 120 and these in small Philadelphia Notes — the Whole that I could obtain of the Merchants & of the bank at this place. I set out in twenty minutes for Georgetown (eight miles distant) where I hope in the course of the morrow to receive two hundred dollars more. . . . Wishing you much health & happiness I subscribe myself

Your Friend

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Aug. 12, [17]96.

DEAR MADAM. . . . Tomorrow I set out for the Southward, after leaving a great many of my Subscribers here unfurnished.

I hope to God I shall find 100 Sets at least, at each of those large towns, Norfolk, Petersburg & Richmond, to which I am now steering my course. I am now very unhappy on account of the slow circulation of our books to the places of general Rend-vouz. . . .

Yours sincerely

L. & F. Vol. 23.

GEO. TOWN Aug. 14 [17]96.

DEAR MADAM. I was here the other day and after having expended all my ammunition was going home down to Dumfries with a heavy heart, when lo! I met the Concord at Alexandria, just come up with a fresh supply of 37 rounds more, with which I am now renewing the action.

You now receive the counterparts of 240 Dollars which I sent on friday, and at the same time you will get an addition of 70 Dollars more.

Tomorrow or the day following will see me shaping my course for Richmond Petersburg & Norfolk, — for Heaven's sake don't let me want employment there — Let the trunks *well matted* (like the first, for which I thank you) and the books neatly bound as usual be directed to me to care of M^r^. Rob. Pollard, Merch^t^., Richmond. To M^r^. Gramar — Petersburg — To Capt^n^. James Tucker — Norfolk.

. . . My usual good wishes attend Mess^rs^ King & Moore

Yours

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Aug. 16, [17]96.

DEAR MADAM. . . . I find it amazingly easy to give offence and consequently to alienate the affections of Subscribers. At best they are a querulous crew, and a trifle will make some of them swear by god that they will get no more books by subscription, which, continue they, seldom come in so perfect a garb as we coud have them by subsequent purchase. Several of these which have been sent, are very faulty, some of them being mis-number^d^ and others, in other respects imperfect.

Well think of Richmond, P[*etersburg*] and Norfolk. Wou'd I coud hear our books say "We'll meet thee there"

Don't forget to send a few *Subscription* papers & a set or two of Guthrie in my trunk.

Much health & happiness attend yourself and family.

I long to see the black scratches of my friend Mons[r]. Carey

Tell him to inclose the keys of the trunks in letters and those well seald & tied to the handles of the trunks, previously well *matted* &c.

Adieu Adieu Adieu

NB. I think the trunks come higher than they ought to come to you who buy so many! —

L. & F. Vol. 23.

ALEXANDRIA Aug. 19. [17]96.

DEAR MADAM. . . . Had I but had our *new* subscription books of the *improved sort*, I shoud perhaps have done great things here towards a new crop, however thank God I have been very successful with Guthrie &c. The new subscription books were very unfortunately sent to Balt[o] after I had left that place. I hope to meet some of them at Norfolk, Richmond &[c]. &[c]. You may send me a handsome copy of Guthrie in each trunk.

Wishing you the happiness to see Mr. Carey in a short time & in good health I remain

yours Sincerely

L. & F.

Aug. 17, 1796.

Carey wrote, dealing with debts of concerns which had been recommended to him by Weems, who is asked to push payment for books supplied to them. On Sept. 2, 1796, he wrote: 'I have been at home nearly a week & have not yet had a line from you. You ought to write by every mail. As M[r]. Brundige, & M[r]. Magruder at G[*eorge*]. Town have rather more books, & in some cases quite too many of a kind it might not be amiss to make a selection from the stock of each of such articles as they could spare & dispose of them in the manner we have agreed upon. I would have nothing of this kind attempted without it was perfectly agreeable to all parties. . . . By this Vessel, which, I believe, will not sail before Sunday, I propose to forward you a considerable number, say 20, or 40, of each [*of*] the books in our new subscription plan; so that if you procure any subscribers, you may be able to supply them at once, & collect the money directly. . . .'

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Aug. 24, [17]96.

. . .

NB. I have a small favor to ask of you — Be so good as to get Mr. Rob. Campbell [1] to walk up to your store at some leisure moment, and present him [*with*] the ten dollars which I herewith send you for that purpose, and tell him that I have sold the set of Hume's England [2] which he gave me, and will sell for him the other 30 sets (I think it was 30) of which he sent me the 3d Volumes only some time ago. I hardly need observe to him the necessity of sending on the correspondant 5 Volumes of each set, in order to render those sets complete.

Yours with much friendship,

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Sep 7, [1796.]

. . . I regret extremely your not writing more frequently. I have many sets of Goldsmith ready, but know not where to send them. It wd be well to write every post or at least every other.

I have purchased the whole edition of Fletchwood's [*sic*] life of Christ & the Apostles.[3] It is a choice work for a subscriptioneering parson. I reserve the whole for you.

How do you succeed with Guthrie.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Richmond, Sept. 6. [17]96.

Dr. Carey. I arrivd here yesterday morning, and but five days after the advent of my *two* trunks. Inclosd I send you 250 Dollars. Tomorrow evening I set out for Petersburg. Whence, if my books be there, I hope I shall make you another handsome remittance — For Heaven's sake don't forget me nor disappoint my hopes of meeting books at Nor-

[1] 'Campbell, Robert, & Co. booksellers and stationers, 40, south second st' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1798, LC.

[2] See letter of Apr. 7, 1796.

[3] 'Fleetwood, (John, D.D.) *Life of Christ. With the lives of the apostles and evangelists; and a defence of the Christian religion*, by Philip Doddridge. 4°. London, 1838.' LC. card catalogue. The LC. has also other later editions. A Carlisle (Pa.) edition listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

folk &c. I trust I shall be enabled to dispose of 500 Sets for you on this River [*James*] —

Why did you not send me some of our Subscription *books?*

Send on to this place and to care of Mr Rob. Pollard thirty sets of Guthrie. You know the taste of the Virginian how passionately fond of handsome things, ergo let Guthrie be *fresh* and *Nicely bound.*

I dare say you expected to hear from me earlier, but fearing that the books were not *come* and being busily engagd in getting Subscriptions at Fredericksburg I did not make my appearance here untill yesterday morning.

Keep me *well in Ammunition,* and I hope, God preserving my health, that you shall hear from me by every mail for some weeks to come.

You have already sent me two trunks of Goldsmith to this place, I must have one more. My subscribers are numerous.

Send me on Eighty sets to Fredericksburg — to care of Messrs David and James Blair,[1] Merchts The sooner the better but not untill James River be well furnishd. However I suppose you can send instantly one trunk of 30 sets.

Best Wishes attend Mrs. C. & Family

Yours Dr. Sir

[*with*] much good will

L. & F. Vol. 23.

PETERSBURG, Sept. 9th. [*1796*]

DEAR CAREY. Tho' were you conscious of the chagrin which I feel at this unlucky moment you wd [*not*] expect to be saluted with so endearing an epithet. You must know that at Richmond I found 75 (I

[1] 'May 18, 1775: . . . Isaac Heslop and David Blair of Fredericksburg, Merchants. April 12, 1777: James Heslop . . . and James Blair of Fredskg. Va., Merchants. Aug. 26, 1797: David Blair, surviving partner of Heslop and Blair. . . .' *Virginia County Records, Spotsylvania County 1721–1800,* William Armstrong Crozier, Genealogical Association, New York, 1905, pp. 316, 332, 494, LC. — *Ad.* 'Just Imported, *And now* opened *by the* subscribers, a complete assortment of goods suitable to the present and approaching Season also a quantity of Ironmongery, Saddlery, Joiners & Carpenters Tools . . . They request their regular Customers to be early in their applications; those who have been backward in their payments need not apply. . . . David & James Blair. November 7th, 1796.' *Virginia Herald & Fredericksburg Advertiser,* Dec. 6, 1796 *et seq.*, AAS.

think) sets of Goldsmith for all of which (10 excepted) I have receiv'd the monies. By the last mail I sent you 250 Dol. By this I send you 50 Dol. I have many more in hand but can't get them converted into proper notes. Having finish'd that little business at Richmond to my satisfaction and put Guthrie into a very *promising train* I mounted and on the Stages [*illegible*] wheels roll[d] into this town (Petersburg) by 10 O Clock on this good morning, pleasing myself with the thought of shutting the clamorous mouths of Numberless Subscribers. But guess my surprise and heart sickness when Mr. Gramar spoke a negative to my eager interrogations. Much rather had I have met the Nemean Lyon in my path than that cold frosty monosyllable — No. Well, leaving fruitless complaints let me proceed to business. I shall want one hundred copies of Goldsmith at this place, and the sooner the better. I hope to sell 150 or 200 copies, for M[r]. Gramar tells me that *one* of my Coadjutors alone has gotten me *50* Subscribers.

I wish you w[d] ship off as soon as you conveniently can 500 or 1000 Dollars worth of books to a M[r]. Launcelot Mullen[1] Printer, of Fredericksburg on Rappahanock. He is a young Man of many good friends, of Republican principles, in an excellent stand, and is well *secured*. Henderson is much censured as an extravagant Book Merchant, if you coud furnish M[r]. Mullen a handsome assortment of *Books Maps Stationary* &[c]. and at Philadelphia prices you w[d] *find your account in it.* I have promis[d] to give him 12 and ½ pr. Cent commission. He will *advertise* and make a prodigious noise in his paper and thus sell many more books than any other man in that fertile country. . . .

Adieu my D[r]. Sir — your Friend

Love to Mrs. C. & family

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Sept 9 [*1796*]

. . . It is very unfortunate that you have allowed such a chasm to take place in your correspondence. I can form no accurate idea of your route — & therefore know not where to direct my letters — or to send any Goldsmith, or other Books. I have two trunks packed & am strongly

[1] L. A. Mullin printed for Weems *Sacred Dramas* by Madame La Comtesse de Genlis, Fredericksburg, 1797. (*Bibliography, title 235.*)

inclined to send them to Fredericksburgh, in hope of their meeting you on your return. But I am afraid that if you have made your usual dispatch at Norfolk, Petersburg & Richmond, that you might be considerably advanced on your return homeward, before their arrival, & then they would remain asleep till your next southern excursion. From all this embarrassment had you given me a few lines informing me when you expected you would remain there, I might make some calculations which would bid fair to answer my purpose. But at present I am turned adrift without a helm to [*or*] compass to direct me.

On second thoughts, I believe I shall send these trunks to Alexandria or Dumfries if an opportunity offers, as from either of those places you can more readily convey them to their proper destination than from Fredericksburgh. . . .

Sept. 14 [*1796*]

. . . I am astonished at this remissness. As I am willing to pay postage for letters from you every mail or every other mail, you ought to be willing to write. It is by no means enough to write only when you have remittances to make, it is of considerable importance to keep me acquainted with your expected route, the day of your arrival at & of your departure from each place; otherwise I must be in constant uncertainty where to send your books or where to direct my letters.

Another disadvantage arising from your silence, is, that I have hardly any copies of Guthrie ready. Not knowing your success in subscriptioneering for that work, I did not urge the binders to finish any of them. Had you informed me of your success, I should at this time have the 30 sets ready for Richmond. I have, however, given directions on the subject, this morning, & hope to have 200 sets ready by Christmas.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Norfolk, Sept. 16, [*17*]96.

Dear Carey, Your letters via Richmond &c. are come to hand. I congratulate you on your very pleasant excursion and safe return, and I am not without gratitude to Heaven for enabling me to manifest in some degree the gratitude and affection which I feel for your unlimited confidence reposd in me. On Tuesday I arrivd in this busy, bustling town. I found that two trunks, No. *perhaps*, 12 and 13 were arrivd. They were lodgd here with Capt. Tucker 2 or 3 weeks ago. I immediately fell to work and have distributed about 57 copies. To day I shall dispatch the ballance. The Industry-Grier, is not yet arrivd. This failure to be

set to the account of the long continued southwinds. In my last I beg[d]. you to send on a handsome assortment to M[r]. Launcelot Mullen, Printer, Fredericksburg, Rappahanock River, Virginia. Mullen is a young Man of some parts, of many friends, and, a warm Republican. His punctuality is warranted by one or two good friends. His paper will do great things for your books. Send him a large assortment and not more than 4 or 6 of *a sort*. Fredericksburg will do well as your grand rendevous for books, I can thence very conveniently send off detachments to all the surrounding Counties far & near. The sooner you can send to M[r]. Mullen the better as the District Court, Races &[c]. will commence there next month.[1] You seem to inhibit the approach of your books to

[1] As Weems worked into his trade as book seller, he came to attach more and more import to getting to southern towns or Court houses when there were races, courts or religious 'rallies.' This is the first time that I have found him mentioning one. — 'Cotton in *Carolina*, and horse-racing in *Virginia*, are the prevailing topics of conversation.' *Travels . . . United States*, John Davis, 1803, p. 96. — 'Charlotte, April, 10, 1827. I do not remember in any "letters from the South" a description of a Virginia court-day, and, as I know of nothing which exhibits in more lively colours the distinctive traits of the State character, I will employ a little time in sketching a scene of this kind, which presented itself on Monday, the 2nd of April. The court of Charlotte Co. is regularly held upon the first Monday of every month, and there is usually a large concourse of people. This was an occasion of peculiar interest, as elections for Congress and the State Legislature were then to take place. As the day was fine, I preferred walking, to the risk of having my horse alarmed, and driven away by the hurly-burly of such an assemblage. In making my way along the great road, which leads from my lodgings to the place of public resort, I found it all alive with the cavalcades of planters and countryfolk going to the raree show. A stranger would be forcibly struck with the perfect familiarity with which all ranks were mingling in conversation, as they moved along on their fine pacing horses. Indeed, this sort of equality exists to a greater degree here than in any country with which I am acquainted. Here were young men, whose main object seemed to be the exhibition of their spirited horses, of the true race breed, and their equestrian skill. The great majority of persons were dressed in domestic, undyed cloth, partly from economy, and partly from a State pride, which leads many of our most wealthy men, in opposing the tariff, to reject all manufactures which are protected by the Government. A man would form a very incorrect estimate of the worldly circumstances of a Virginia planter who should measure his finances by his coat. When I came near to the village, I observed hundreds of horses tied to the trees of a neighboring grove, and further on could descry an immense and noisy multitude covering a space around the courthouse. In one quarter, near the taverns, were collected the mob, whose chief errand is to drink and quarrel. In another, was exhibited a fair of all kinds of vendibles, stalls of mechanics and tradesmen, eatables and drinkables, with a long line of unique wagons, which are never wanting on these occasions. The loud cries of salesmen, vending wares at public auction, were mingled with the vociferation of a stump orator, who, in the midst of the countless crowd, was advancing his claims as a candidate of the House of Delegates. I threaded my way into this living mass, for the purpose of hearing the oration. A grey-headed man was discoursing upon the necessity

Petersburg. With all due submission I think you stand prodigiously in your own light — M^r. Prentis,[1] a Printer, a Magistrate and a most respected [*Citizen*] of Petersb^g offers to cooperate with you. His offers, in black & white are as [*follow*]: "I w^d willingly undertake the sale of books & Stationary on the same terms [*as*] M^r. Grammar does, provided I coud be furnish^d with a *complete assortment*, without which it were vain to attempt to do anything, and with which I am certain a good deal might be done both for the proprietor and myself." — Thus far M^r. P. Believe me you had better make him up a handsome assortment of books, Maps &^c. &^c. &^c. He offers to give me the best security in Petersburg. He has a most excellent stand in the main street, his paper circulates throughout the Neighbouring Country, and unless he sells a great many

of amending the State Constitution, and defending the propriety of calling a convention. His elocution was good, and his arguments very plausible, especially when he dwelt upon the very unequal representation in Virginia. This, however, happens to be the unpopular side of the question in our region and the populace, while they respected the age and talents of the man showed but faint signs of acquiescence. The candidate, upon retiring from the platform on which he had stood, was followed by a rival, who is well known as his standing opponent. The latter kept the people in a roar of laughter by a kind of dry humor which is peculiar to himself. Although far inferior to the other in abilities and learning, he excels him in all those qualities which go to form the character of a democrat. He appealed to the interests of the planters and slave owners, he turned into ridicule all the arguments of the former speaker, and seemed to make his way to the hearts of the people. . . . The throng and confusion were great, and the result was that Mr. Randolph was unanimously elected for Congress, Col. Wyatt for the Senate, and the two former members to the Legislature of the State. After the election sundry petty squabbles took place among the persons who had been opposing one another in the contest. Towards night, a scene of unspeakable riot took place; drinking and fighting drove away all thought of politics and many a man was put to bed by wounds and drunkenness. This part of Virginia has long been celebrated for its breed of horses. There is scrupulous attention paid to the preservation of the immaculate English blood. Among the crowd on this day were snorting and rearing fourteen or fifteen stallions, some of which were indeed fine specimens of that noble creature. Among the rest, Mr. Randolph's celebrated English horse, Roanoke, who is nine years old, and has never been "backed." That which principally contributes to this great collection of people on our court days is the fact that all public business and all private contracts are settled at this time. All notes are made payable on these days, &c. &c. But you must be tired with Charlotte Court; I am sure that I am.' *Letter from Dr. James Waddell Alexander to Dr. Hall*, in *John Randolph of Roanoke*, William Cabell Bruce, Vol. II, pp. 169–171. Such a scene fits admirably with Weems' activities, and we can imagine his pleasure in holding his own in such a gathering.

[1] William Prentiss issued the *Virginia Gazette* (Richmond) 1782–1783, *Virginia Gazette and Petersburg Intelligencer* 1786–1787, *Norfolk and Portsmouth Chronicle* (Norfolk) 1789–1792, *Petersburg Intelligencer* 1800–1802. — One of the subscribers whose names were printed in Carey's edition of Guthrie's *Geography* 1794–1795, LC.

books, he will deprive you of the sale of a great many, for he means, sh[d]. you reject his offer, to form a partnership with Campbell, Dobson and the Capital Booksellers of Philad[a]. &[c] Capt[n]. James Tucker of this town (Norfolk) offers to join us in the bookselling business. He is, as I told you before a Gentleman long and well known to me, of a considerable fortune. the reward of his own industry and merit, and occupies one of the best stands in Norfolk. I have offer[d]. and he is content to take our usual premium of 12½ pr Cent, subjoin[d]. is his list of such books as he thinks will sell well, but at the same time he leaves the selection entirely to yourself — convinced, — of your superior judgment — viz. Small school Bibles,[1] Testaments,[1] Spelling books, Scots lessons,[2] Grammars, Dictionaries, elegant extracts,[3] Westley's hymns,[4] with an assortment of other Methodist books, small common prayer books, Almanacks — Anson's voyages,[5] Cooks do[6] [*Adams?*] on Man[7] —

[1] *Ad.* 'Family Bibles, School Bibles, and nonpareil Testaments. . . . M. Carey, . . . intending to devote his attention chiefly to the manufacture of the above three articles, offers for sale on very liberal terms, his Miscellaneous assortment of Books and Stationery . . . September 3.' *Telegraphe & Daily Advertiser* (Baltimore), Sept. 3, 1805, HU. — Beginning with the first American issue of the Douay Bible in 1790, Carey published many subsequent editions of the Bible and the Testament, in 4to and 12mo and in great variety of quality and price. As will be seen by his letters, Weems not only pushed the sale of these zealously throughout his life, but also at times took a hand in their makeup. (*Bibliography, title 248.*)

[2] *Lessons in Elocution: or, a Selection of Pieces, In Prose and Verse, For the Improvement of Youth In Reading and Speaking.* By William Scott. The HSP. has several editions between 1790 and 1805.

[3] *Elegant Extracts: or useful and entertaining Passages in Prose Selected for the Improvement of Scholars* . . . [London *ca.* 1783] LC. card catalogue.

[4] *A Collection of Psalms and Hymns.* Published By John Wesley, M.A. . . . and Charles Wesley, M.A. . . . The Twelfth Edition. London. . . . 1794. LC.

[5] *An Entertaining Account of all the Countries of the Known World* . . . The Third Edition . . . London. MDCCLII. LC. — *A Voyage round the World,* . . . by George Anson, Esq.; . . . compiled From his Papers and Materials, By Richard Walter, M.A. . . . London: . . . MDCCLIII. LC.

[6] 'Cook's (captain James) Voyages to the Pacific Ocean, 4 vols. calf gilt, *used,* $6' *Carey's Catalogue,* 1818, p. 17, t. 84, LC. The LCPHIL. has Philadelphia 1783 edition. The NYPL. has '1st American Edition. 1796.' Contemporary editions of Boston, New York and Worcester listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804,* in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century,* by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[7] *Curious Thoughts on the History of Man: Chiefly Abridged or Selected from The Celebrated Works of Lord Kaimes, Lord Monboddo, Dr. Dunbar, and the Immortal Montesquieu:* . . . By the Rev. John Adams, A.M. London: Printed for G. Kearsley, . . . M.DCC.LXXXIX. LC.

Flowers of anchient [*sic*] history [1] — Modern travels [2] & voyages [3] — Thomas & Andrews history of the American war [4] — the adventures [*torn*] different works — Armstrong's do — Voltair's life [5] [*torn*] Life different works — Oliver Cromwell do. do,[6] . . . Watson's answer to Paine [7] is much in demand — but the extravagant price ask[d] for it must retard its sale — if you coud *instantly* get off an edition of 2,000 Copies, and set them low, you w[d] be doing a great service to the interests of Religion and you w[d] have put much money into your coffers — for I think I cou[d] sell a great many for you.

There's one remark necessary to be made — the booksellers in Virginia are much complain[d] of for want of moderation in the charges. If you were but to put your books at the Philad[a]. prices, you w[d] soon find your account in the rapidity and largeness of your sales. Were you to desire Cap[t]. Tucker, M[r]. Prentis, Petersburg & M[r]. Mullen, Fredericksburg to have it given out that your books were offer[d] at Philadelphia prices you w[d] soon acknowledge that my advice was good. Inclosed I send you a draught for 438 D 50 C

Wishing you much health & happiness, I remain,

D[r] Carey,

Your Friend

[1] 'Adams' (Rev. John) Flowers of Ancient and Modern History . . . Philadelphia . . .' *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[2] *The Flowers of Modern Travels* . . . By the Rev. John Adams, A.M. . . . Boston: . . . 1797. LC. Also listed in Growoll, see note 1 above.

[3] *Modern Voyages:* . . . By the Reverend John Adams, A.M. . . . London: . . . MDCCXC. LC.

[4] Probably *A Concise and Impartial History of the American Revolution* . . . By John Lendrum . . . Boston, By I. Thomas and E. T. Andrews . . . 1795. CL.

[5] Perhaps an earlier edition of 'Voltaire's Life of Peter the Great, $1 Frederick Town, 1813' or 'Voltaire's Life of Charles XII of Sweden.' *Carey's Catalogue, 1818*, p. 57, titles 648, 649, LC.

[6] *An Historical and Critical Account of the Life of Oliver Cromwell*, William Harris, London, 1772, LC. The LC. has several earlier *Lives* but none published by Carey.

[7] *An Apology for the Bible, in a Series of Letters, Addressed to Thomas Paine, Author of a Book entitled, The Age of Reason* . . . By R. Watson, D.D. F.R.S. Lord Bishop of Landaff, and Regius Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge . . . Philadelphia: Printed by James Carey . . . 1796. Succeeding letters seem to prove that Weems had a financial interest in James Carey's issue of the above, as well as in his editions of the various pamphlets and works of Thomas Paine. (*Bibliography, title 243.*)

[Launcelot A. Mullin to Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 22.*

Fredericksburg, September 25th. 1796.

Mr. Carey. — Sir, The occasion of the present trouble, particularly from a stranger, perhaps may surprise you. I have therefore to solicit an excuse. Some few weeks past, the Revd. Mason L. Weems, passing thro this town, applied to me, (being advised that this was an exceedingly good place to establish a Book-Store) to take the same, provided I could furnish unexceptionable security. Being in the Printing-line, and publishing a News-Paper, I thought it an advantageous offer, and one that would take extremely well, from the very frequent applications for Books &c. I furnish'd, to his utmost satisfaction, the most accredited Responders in Fredericksburg, to the amount of any sum he should think necessary to send on. Then on his way to the Southward, and expecting to return long e'er this, he advised me to make preparations for the reception of said Books. I did so; and have now fitted up a store-Room. Hearing nothing from him since Sir, is the only reason of my writing to you, (not knowing where to address him) to be informed whether you have receiv'd any intelligence from Mr. Weems, on the above subject. I hope therefore you will be so obliging as to drop a line by the earliest return of the stage to satisfy my expectation — and forgive the trouble I have given you. There is a necessity for being informed, as those Gentlemen who were my friends, at Mr. Weems's proposal, are in a few days going to the north for the selections of Fall-Assortments and will, should Mr. Weems have omitted, strive to furnish me, as I have been at some considerable expence in preparing for the same. . . . This Place is extremely well adapted for a Book-Store — nothing of the kind having before been established here — The people Generally Rich, well-educated, & fond of the study of literature. . . .

I remain, Sir, with Respect & Esteem

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Norfolk — Sept. 20 [17]96.

Dear Carey. — Ever since my last I've been on the tenters of painful expectation. No wonder then that I begin to grow feverish. That vile aquatic Sloth, nicknamd The Industry, is not yet arrived! But for her crew and cargo I wd not weep were she at moorings in Davy Jones's locker, or tho the Ferryman of hell had her to put the Austrians across the styx. Well, I hope you begin by this time to see the impolicy of procrastinating matters till the eleventh hour. Richmond, Petersburg and Norfolk have been my constant cry, the very burden of my letters

for these five weeks past and yet, mirabile dictu! I can't get a trunk of books in my direst need. For want of supplies I lost a whole week betwixt Balt°. and Alexandria — two weeks and more between Alexandria and Richmond, and one week betwixt Richmond and Norfolk. Thus, you see that since the time you put me on board your Man of War, Goldsmith, you have kept me idle nearly half the cruise, by disappointing or delaying me on every other tack. Well thank God I am of the ruminating kind, and since I can't get Goldsmith I'll try a tooth on Hume and the Mentor.[1] Light fare, but better that than none.

Inclos[d] I send you the 2[d] copy of a bill on Mess[s] Isaac Hazlehurst & Son, for $438.50 Cents. If you will be so good as to let your Neighbour Bailey [2] have 30 Dol. and beg him to send on (as I desir[d] him) to Fredericksburg, Virginia 200 copies of the Mentor, you will oblige me much, and perhaps not lose anything in the long run — The trunks which you send me are too large they will not sell for the purchase money. Smaller trunks w[d] be far more saleable. If Craige cou'd put on his price with a lighter hand it w[d] be still better. Capt. Tucker is making preparations to receive a handsome assortment of books from you. Let me beg, let me conjure you, as you w[d] shun the many evils of the Huckster and as you wish to see wealth pouring into your coffers in a torrent flood, price your books low. — The Bookseller here has never heard any lectures on moderation, ergo he sells high, — few deal with him. Now, if you w[d] but out do the common run of Preachers so far as to practice what you preach, and sell low, you woud presently monopolize the business of this part of the country. You will be pleas[d] to send catalogues in abundance with the books. One volume, and consequently one set in N°. 13 was considerably hurt by the point of a villainous nail — it were well in the Packer to slide his hand over the inside of the trunks in order to detect such lurking evils. Be so good as to desire the Editor of the Aurora [3] to send on immediately his paper to M[r]. George Mackin-

[1] *The Immortal Mentor: or Man's Unerring Guide to a Healthy, Wealthy, and Happy Life* . . . By Lewis Cornaro, Dr. Franklin, and Dr. Scott . . . Philadelphia: Printed for the Rev. Mason L. Weems, by Francis and Robert Bailey . . . 1796. (*Bibliography, title 220.*)

[2] Francis Bailey was at 116 High Street, Philadelphia, Carey at 118. *Philadelphia Directory*, 1793, LC.

[3] Benjamin Franklin Bache, publisher and editor of the *Aurora*, Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 1794–Sept. 10, 1798.

tosh,[1] Norfolk, tell him that I borrow[d] the half Joe for it and will bring it up to him in a few weeks. . . .

I wrote to you to send me on to Alexandria 30 or 40 copies of Guthrie, and to care of M[r]. M[c] Iver, Merch[t]. I hope you have not forgotten the request, nor lost sight of the Virginia fondness for pretty binding. I hope to meet the same number of Guthrie at Richmond. You sold M[r]. Thomas [2] of Alexandria a Parcel of Goldsmith in sheets, he bound them himself and now *undersells* us. A repetition of such things w[d] soon do over our subscription business. Think of that Master Ahithophel, think of that. Be so good as to tell M[r] Campbell that I hope to send him in the course of 30 days the full payment of at least one half of the books he sent me to James River.

Wishing you all the happiness, both [*in*] this and a latter life, I remain, D[r]. Carey your Friend,

My best wishes attend M[rs]. C. and [*Messrs*] Moore & King Bailey & [*torn*].

L. & F. Vol. 23.

NORFOLK — Sep. 25, [*1796.*]

DEAR CAREY, I have but a moment to tell you that the Industry, heaven evermore bless her tacks and sheets, is at last safe in port. I have much to say but must defer it 'till my next. Inclos[d] I send you the half note of 50 Dol. and the 1[st] half of 3 other note[*s*] amount[g] to 45. I have more silver but possess not time to get them chang[d] into Notes. You shall hear from me shortly — Be so good as to present my compts to M[r]. Campbell & inform him that I have money for him which I will send if he will but desire you to order me to send it by post.

Best wishes attend M[rs]. C. & Family,

Adieu Dear Carey,

[1] 'The following Directors of the Virginia Bank — Branches, were appointed on Monday. . . . Norfolk . . . George M'Intosh. . . .' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Jan. 8, 1808, AAS.

[2] *Ad.* 'J. V. Thomas, Bookseller and Stationer, near Wise's Tavern. . . .' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* (Virginia), Mar. 17, 1795 *et seq.*, HU. — 'Du-Val's Patent Antibilious Pills, . . . sold by . . . Mr. John V. Thomas, Bookseller, Alexandria. . . . Richmond, Oct. 16, 1798.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Dec. 25, 1798, AAS. — 'John V. Thomas, sec'ry, Mechanic Relief Society.' *Alexandria Expositor*, Apr. 24, 1804, HU.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*
Sept. 25 [*1796*]

. . . You appear to have forgotten a Box shipped to your address at Norfolk the 9th of July. it contained 24 Goldsmith & 12 Henry,[1] and was shipped per the schooner Fox, of Petersburg, Thomas Clarke, master. The Bill of lading is now before me. Another Box, containing the same articles, was shipped on board the same vessel and directed to you at Richmond make particular enquiry respecting them.

You wrote on the subject in my store to your friends in both places.

To return to the subject of remittances it appears to me that you ought to send me every dollar you receive for Goldsmith, in the early part of your peregrinations. Towards the close you will have complete time to pay yourself your own allowance, this is the more necessary, as my expenses for binding are very considerable, to say nothing of the enormous sum lying dormant in the work itself. Your remittances before the draft of Saturday last were very little more than the price of binding the sets either sent or ready to be sent to you. There are actually forwarded, as nearly as I can calculate above 800 sets [*of Goldsmith*]. There are ready nearly two hundred more. Think of that Master parson!

Make no more engagements for opening stores till we meet. Those you have already pledged yourself for, will be sufficient till I see how Goldsmith & Guthrie are likely to succeed ultimately. Should they meet the success I once flattered myself I shall be able to go into that business on a large scale.

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Fredericksburg Octob 7. [*17*]96.

Dear Carey — You see that I have exchang[d] the waters of the James River for those of the Rappahanock. You sent me betwixt 2 and 300 copies of Goldsmith to the towns situated on the banks of the former. Of those, I have dispos[d] of all except about 20 or 25 which I left in the hands of good men & true who had gotten me subscriptions. This moment I arriv[d] at this place where I experienced the heartfelt satisfaction of finding that your books both to Mullen and Messrs. Blairs were safely arriv[d]. Mullen is opening and selling rapidly. Tomorrow I hope to begin with Goldsmith. Your dispatches to us *both*

[1] Proposals for printing Rev. Matthew Henry's Exposition of the Old and New Testaments were in *Philadelphia Gazette & Universal Daily Advertiser*, Nov. 19, 1795, NYPL.

are very *scanty*. My prospects with respect to Master Oliver [*Goldsmith*] are very flattering. Prithee don't be too prodigal of his entertaining and popular pages, in exchange for the dull productions of the Northern presses. Within six or seven days past I have gotten for you 600 Dollars, of which I have furnish^{d} Gramar with 563. and have still 200 left. I am wrong, you see, in my arithmetic, however as the error is on the right side you will easily forgive it.

As to that infrequency of writing which you are so *frequently* taxing me with, I have no response to make but a poor *peccavi*. However to tell you the truth I had much rather be selling books than writing letters even to *yourself*. I wish you to send fewer letters, but I w^{d} with all my soul, that you w^{d} send books. I have a great many subscribers on the James River yet unfurnished. And I have "sheath^{d} my sword of exertion" in those quarters, merely for want of argument. My ammunition was all expended. As you and M^{r}. Prentis had not bro^{t}. matters to a certainty I did nothing on the head of taking *security* for his honorable dealing. You must therefore, previous to sending supplies, insist that he give M^{r}. Gramar (for you) the security which he promis^{d} me and which sh^{d} not be neglected. You must send on too to M^{r}. Gramar, the bill of lading of the two trunks by the Fox, Schooner, Petersburg, Clarke and some probit of the contents. M^{r}. Gramar will, I trust, get the books or receive the money. Gramar desir^{d} me to let you know that the bill of lading & some probit, in the way of oath, of the contents, w^{d} be necessary. However, all this he will elucidate by letter. In the interim, you need not make yourself uneasy, as every body says that the vessel is liable for the books or value.

I shall write to you by the next post. Had I better come on to Lancaster, little York, Carlisle &c. &c. Write to me to Dumfries. Draw me the best plan of procedure. I beg^{d} you to write to me whether Campbell w^{d} have me send his money by post or not.

Wishing you much health & fraternity I remain, as ever,

prithee send on a trunk of Goldsth. to Capt. Tucker, Norfolk. D^{o}. of 50 to Pollard, Richmond & 30 handsome Guthrie — Love to M^{rs}. Carey & Family,

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Oct^{r}. 12th. 1796.

Your favour of the 7th. ins^{t}. arrived yesterday, concerning a note for one hundred dollars.

You ask for Sailing Orders, But I coud hardly venture to give you any. You are rather a better Judge than I pretend to be, however I shall Sketch out a plan for your Consideration & decission.

Suppose you proceed from Dumfries to Alexandria, and dispose of the Supplies there, thence to Georgetown and Baltimore, from the latter place go to York, Lancaster, Carlisle, &^{c} &^{c} then return homewards via Philadelphia, if you determine on this last, inform me immediately, that I may send Copious Supplies of the Viaticum to the westward. Guthrie will be ready in a week or two, as soon as possible they shall be sent to Richmond. You have not informed me how you have disposed of the Trunks of Assorted Books sent to Norfolk nor of that sent to Fredericksburg.

Pray let me know what has been your success with your new plan of subscription.

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Dumfries Octob. 12, [17]96.

Dear Carey. Having work^{d} myself out of all business on the James River I reluctantly ascended the swift wheeled stage and accompanied its progress towards the North. At Fredericksburg I halted a moment, I mean something, more than a day, in order to mark the manuevers of our young Co-adjutor, Mullen, and to distribute Old Oliver among his patrons. I got but 90 Dol. on the nail, the rest being engaged in wholesale to Merchants who according to their way must have 60 and 90 days. You must know that I have resolv^{d}, God willing, (in which salvo I include by the by, on your part more punctuality in sending books to the scenes of action) to *clear out* Master O^{r}. Goldsmith by the 1st day of Octob. next. In order to accomplish this, I give *good* Men and *true*, the fifth copy and in some cases where they express fears of slow sales, I allow them 30 or 60 days or even 90 days. In this mode of distribution the loss falls with considerable gravity on my puny shoulders, however is it not better to receive the L'Argent in three months than to suffer the books to lie on your shelves (as you once feared) for three years? To a Gentleman who had obtained a number of subscriptions at

the rate of one for six I said — "pay me the cash for 4 and take the 5th." He acquiesced, and counting me down 256 Dol. (32 Sets) gladly took up 40 sets. NB I receiv^{d} 8 Dol. per copy from several of *his subscribers* besides. This happened in a neighbourhood where your original paper tho in the hands of a considerable Book vender had remained *perfectly* blancha ab initio. I shall want 100 Copies instantly at Alexandria. My subscribers at Sheppards town Martinsburg Winchester &^{c}. are numerous. From Alexandria I can daily get opportunities to send them by the waggons to those places. I shall in fact want 400 Copies at Alexandria, but if you coud send me 100 Cop. *immediately* it w^{d}. be something like a smack before dinner. I wish you w^{d}. always direct your books (sent to Alexandria) to the Rev^{d}. [*left blank*] to care of M^{r}. John M^{c}Iver Merchant Alexandria. As to M^{r}. Thomas, his disingenuity in underselling us in the few copies of Goldsmith which he got from you in sheets, has almost led me to a resolution to have nothing to do with him. I w^{d} too that you w^{d} send them in trunks containing about 30 sets and have the freight entered in the bill of lading at the rate of one dollar pr trunk for trunks of such moderate dimensions. I think it a mighty hardship that you can do Nothing without instructions, nor with them neither. I beg^{d}. you to send a copy of Guthrie to every port or place to which Goldsmith was predestinated. To Alexandria you made a shift to get *one* copy, and I had also the good luck to find one at Richmond. At each of those places I expect to sell 50 Copies for you. And lest I sh^{d}. forget it, let me *here* beg that you w^{d}. *immediately*, if you have not already done it, send on 30 or 40 copies of Guthrie to each of those places. They sh^{d}. be handsomely bound. At Petersburg I am pretty confident I sh^{d} have done very well had I but had a handsome copy of Guthrie to exhibit. However, I hope the day of grace is not yet declined. I am half vexed too to think that you shou'd cram all our excellent little subscription books into one trunk and place and not rather have subdivided them into little parties of tens and twelves and sent them whithersoever our beloved Oliver shews his prop[*i*]tious front. Indeed, we must play very adroitly into each others hands, otherwise our game will be less pleasant and profitable. Think of that, Master Carey, think of that. I sent you on from Balt^{o}. perhaps ten weeks ago, two trunks of Blairs Sermons folded and stitch^{d}. Did they come safe to hand? One, I know,

did. You may in your [*next?*] mention the fate of the other. The Rev^d^ M^r^. Geo. Dashiel[1] within 4 miles of Middletown, Delaware, got me some subscribers. I w^d^. you w^d^. ask our Friend Maxwell (of Middletown) whether that Rev^d^. Gentleman be yet a man of this world. If so, be pleas^d^. to send him (to care of Maxwell & via Appaquinimink packet) one dozen handsome copies of Goldsmith and in a handsome trunk. I have good hopes of Mullen at Frederksb^g^. He adheres most conscienceously [*sic*] to the Philad^a^ prices. Twice or thrice the *quantity* w^d^ have done much better. You must increase the number variety &^c^. &^c^. of your Novels, Romances, entertaining histories & blank books, stationary, spelling books and all school books by wholesale w^d^. suit that place well. Prentis at Petersburg will do good things too. Insist on getting security. I sh^d^. have seen it done but left Petersb^g^ before you had come to an agreement. I have an intimate friend here at Dumfries — don't be startled — a Man of family and fortune, and a most capital Fellow, behind a Counter. I promis^d^ him 4 or 500 Dol. worth. Let them be of the gay and sprightly kind, Novels, decent plays, elegant Histories, &c. Let the Moral & Religious be as highly dulcified as possible. Divinity, for this climate sh^d^ be very rational and liberal, adorn^d^ with the graces of stile, and cloth^d^ in splendid binding. Doddridge,[2] Fordyce,[3] Gregory,[4] Bennett,[5] &^c^ will sell well.

Mr. Brundige will send you 100 Dol. pr. this mail. I think it a sore evil to have business to do with more than one man. I was here about to enter a complaint against our Friend Bailey for neglecting me so in the affair of the Mentor. However, as my paper is nearly run out and

[1] For sketch of Rev. George Dashiell, see *Annals of the American Pulpit*, W. B. Sprague, LC.

[2] *Ad.* 'Just come to hand . . . Evidences of Christianity . . . by Philip Doddridge. Price 32 cents.' *Kline's Carlisle Weekly Gazette* (Pennsylvania), Sept. 28, 1796, DCHS.

[3] Possibly one of the following — it is impossible to suggest which: by David Fordyce, *Dialogues concerning Education*, London, 1745, LC., or *Elements of Moral Philosophy*, London, 1796, BA.; by James Fordyce, *Addresses to Young Men*, Boston, [*17–?*], BA.

[4] *A Father's Legacy to his Daughters.* By the late Dr. [*John*] Gregory. Philadelphia. Printed for Mathew Carey, . . . 1809. LC. An earlier edition of Carey's is contained in *The Lady's Pocket Library*. Third American Edition, Improved . . . Printed . . . for Mathew Carey, Philadelphia. M,DCC,XCVII. LC.

[5] *Letters to a Young Lady, on a Variety of Useful and Interesting Subjects:* . . . By the Rev. John Bennett. . . . Philadelphia: . . . Spotswood, and . . . Rice, . . . 1793, AAS.; or, *Stricture on Female Education, Chiefly as it relates to the Culture of the Heart*, by the same author, Worcester, 1795, AAS.

as it is not right to go to bed with malice in one's heart, I'll not kindle the coals by recollection, but wish you both good night, with best respects to M^rs^. C., to Messrs. M[*oore*]. & K[*ing*].

volti, i.e. turn over.

I am waiting for a letter.

If I had the Mentor, I coud, in six months time make 1,000 Dol. clear profit for the good of our concern. My subscribers are numberless and very impatient for their books. give my compliments to M^r^. Bailey and tell him, that, if he will by *your* next letter give me *orders*, I will immediately send him 100 Dol. W^d^ heaven he w^d^ instantly send me 200 Copies of the Mentor to Alexandria & as many to Fredericksburg, to care of John M^c^ Iver at the former & of M^r^. L. Mullen at the latter place. I shall want 100 Copies more of Goldsmith at Fredericksburg, and as soon as possible. It were better to send the Invoice of store books in the trunks which contain them. There is but one more Gentleman to whom I gave promise of a collection of books, I mean a Captain Mallory Todd [1] of Smithfield. Direct the trunk to him to care of M^r^. W^m^. Pennock,[2] Merch^t^., Norfolk. His books sh^d^. be little entertaining histories, school books, some Novels, &c. &c. &c. Smithfield is a place of great trade with N. Carolina and great numbers of little entertaining books may be sold there. However, send but 3 or 400 Dol.

Adieu, Adieu Que le bon Dieu vous conserve!

If M^r^. B—[*aile*]y sh^d^ be slack in stays about the Mentor, be pleas^d^ to get 400 copies in sheets have them boun^d^ & send on to Alexandria & Fredericksburg. You shall be no loser by it.

[1] Mallory Todd of Smithfield, Va., forerunner of E. M. Todd & Co., now (1906) of world-wide reputation as a ham curing establishment in Smithfield. An old invoice of Mallory Todd's found, dated April 30, 1779, for hams furnished Ellerston & John Perrot in West Indies. See *A Brief History of Isle of Wight County, Virginia*, 1608–1907, Col. E. M. Morrison, Compiled for distribution at the Jamestown Tercentenary Exposition, LC.

[2] William Pennock, Delaware Co., one of the subscribers whose names were printed in Carey's edition of Guthrie's *Geography*, 1794–1795, LC. — Counting-rooms of Pennock and Myers praised, 1807, for 'worth . . . enterprise . . . magnanimous demeanour, and . . . comprehensive charity.' *Historical and Descriptive Sketches of Norfolk and Vicinity*, William S. Forrest, Philadelphia, 1853, LC.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Oct^r. 17^th. 1796

Mason L. Weems, Esq^r. and
Parson Travelling Bookseller &^c. &^c.

My Friend & Fellow Citizen, Your *Volume* bearing date the 12^th. Ins^t. and covering a note for one hundred Dollars (I expected three) I rec^d. an hour ago. I am surprized you staid so short a time and did so little at Fredericksburg. I sent there sixty six sets Goldsmith.

You will find copious Supplies at Alexandria of various kinds, as stated in my last letter, and I have just now shiped for you on Board the Tryal, Hand, two trunks two Boxes and a paper parcel of which I inclose the invoice. Hand Sails on Monday next, and I most ardently hope and pray that he may arrive before you leave Alexandria, Indeed, I strongly recommend your finding some employment at & near Dumfries, till his arrival, as you cannot in any other Quarter, do as much as those Supplies will enable you to do at Alexandria, where, by the way, I believe you will find two trunks of Goldsmith N^o. 8 &^c. shiped the 16^th of August, each containing 30 sets. These will afford you a Liberal Breakfast, till the arrival of Hand, who will be able to furnish you a handsome Dinner. You are not the first person I have met with, forward to throw the blame of his own misconduct on Guiltless Shoulders. Whatever disappointments you have met with in the requisite Supplies, you may charge to a pretty large A/c viz. that of your neglect of writing & informing me of your route. Had you done on the subject as I so often importuned you to do, you would have ample provision everywhere before you, in the State of uncertainty in which you constantly left me, it was by chance or guess that I sent away the trunks.

Remember that the atlases for those Geographies shiped by Pearson, not being ready when he sailed, they are sent by Hand. Since I wrote the preceeding part of this letter I have on further reflextion been inclined to suppose that it might not be amiss to go at once for Alexandria. Dispose of what Goldsmith &c you find there — & subscriptioneer there and in its neighbourhood until the arrival of Hand. I have purchased 400 Rambler[1] & 370 Fletchwood's Life of Christ, entirely with a view to your Quarter.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Dumfries Octob. 15 [17]96.

Dear Sir: I hope that at this time of day I hardly need assure you that I had much rather subscriptioneer and vend books for you than

[1] Probably Dr. Johnson's tale.

for any other man whatever. But yet I well know that you are, like Brutus, an honorable man, and w[d] not exact a breed of barren services from any one and least of all from a most devoted friend. Now that your allowance to me (in the *store settling* business, I *mean*) is rather of this lean and bobtail[d] kind, may, I w[d] hope, be easily demonstrated to your entire satisfaction. You allow me 5 pr cent for books sold by commission. Well, I'll *suppose*, that I am going down to Richmond to place in proper hands a box of books sent by the Industry but not got up to Richmond when I came thro that city. This box, by a second supposition, is worth 300 Dol. The sum total of my profits on this box wholly sold is 15 Dol.

Stage hire from Dumfries to Richmond	5 Dol.
Do back again	5 Dol
Expences on road for 3 days & 3 nights	5 dol.
Total	15 Dol.

Here you see that without the help of drams for drivers, half bits for poor Negro waiters, or any of those countless petty larceny robberies to which flesh and blood on the high ways, is heir to, I have fairly got clear of all my five pr. cents for a trunk containing 300 Dollars. Thus after rolling and jolting, tumbling and tossing thro a journey of 200 miles, rous[d]. from sweet sleep at one O'Clock in the morning, coop[d] up in a common stage for almost three days and nights together, my head aching thro loss of rest, my ears startl[d] with female screams or masculine imprecations, and [*my*] whole senses stun'd with rattling wheels, cracking whips, splashing water and clouds of dust I at length get home, not to exult like Buonparte over his Ducats & florins, but to mourn with old Naomi "Woe's me for I went out full, but the Lord hath brought me back empty." I hope that by this time my friend Carey is pretty well convinced that he has not in this store business been so liberal to the poor priesthood as became a good Believer. A tythe was always assign[d] to the family of Levi, and that by some of them was look[d] on as rather a touch and go sort of allowance, however, let M[r]. Carey allow me that and I shall be satisfied, and disdaining all dronish petitions to Hercules, I'll clap my shoulders to the wheels, and endeavor to push the fortunes in these southern regions. This country is large, and numerous are its inhabitants;

to cultivate among these a taste for reading, and by the reflection of proper books to throw far and wide the rays of useful arts and sciences, were at once the work of a true Philanthropist and prudent speculator. For I am verily assured that under proper culture, every dollar that you shall scatter on the field of this experiment will yield you 30, 60 and 100 fold. There came into my mind the other night a thought which in the crucible of your brain may be melted down into many a pound weight of pure gold. You must know that I wish to establish a charity school in some one, or other of the large towns in this state. The most promising instrument is a lottery,[1] the prizes payable in *books*.

This affair is still in embryo, but those to whom I have mentioned it are pleas[d] with a scheme to this effect. The lottery shall contain 20,000 tickets at one dollar pr ticket. The number and size of the prizes as also the sum to be rais[d], is all left to your arrangment. To all good Christians the education of the poor and fatherless is a *primary wish*. And when there is a prospect of doing this at the very cheap rate of 7/6, and a chance that even this trifle may burn into our bosoms with a tenfold usury of favorite books, who will not heartily approve and vigorously aid this design? I am well acquainted with Rob. Brooke [2] the Governor of this State, and also with numbers of those who are highest in rank and most eminent for Wealth & influence throughout this wide spread country, with the co-operation of these and the divine benediction I have no doubt but I shall be enabled to sell you 16,000 dollars worth of books more briefly than you apprehend. I grieve, however, to think that you deem me worthy of less than a moiety of what you give to those who have not sold as many books for you in 3 years as I have in the last

[1] Of this petition for a lottery the only record found by me is of one which failed in the Legislature, see letter of Feb. 7, 1797 and petition, dated Dec. 16, 1797 below. It is characteristic of Weems to have changed the intent of the lottery to one which would be of more immediate usefulness to his fellow townsfolk and himself. That he may have presented other petitions is quite possible, since the Virginia state papers of that day are still in process of being sorted. That with all the piety of that day, lotteries were as respectable as they are in this one (in certain European countries where they are still run under the auspices of government) ought not to surprise us, nor should blame accordingly be attached to Weems for his use of them.

[2] Robert Brooke, 1761–1799; Governor of Virginia 1794–1796. See *History of Virginia*, Vol. II, Lyon Gardiner Tyler, American Historical Society, 1924, p. 436, LC. Also Foote's *Sketches of Virginia*, 1st Series, pp. 482, 484, and *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*, New York, 1915, Vol. II, p. 46, LC.

3 months. Write to me by the first mail. Address me at Dumfries. The Gentleman & Friend of mine at this place, of whose abilities in serving you I spoke so highly, is nam^{d}. Hunter. He is a very considerable Merch^{t}. and a man of much influence. From a lawyer, a friend of his, he got the inclos^{d} list of law books, which you will be pleas^{d} to send on *with the collection* that you make up for him. Let M^{r}. *Nathaniel Hunter's* collection be of handsome fashionable books; and directed thus —To Messrs. Lithgow [1] and Hunter, Dumfries.

I wish^{d} you to send on instantly to Alexandria, as p^{r} last [*letter*], 100 Copies of Goldsmith for the Western Subscribers, let them be well wrapp^{d} up in papers and secur^{d} against friction of waggons &^{c}. &^{c}. in 100 miles travelling. We shall want 50 copies sent on immediately to Norfolk with request to Cap^{t}. Tucker to push them off by hook or by crook. 50 Copies to Rob. Pollard, Richmond. with orders (in the bill-of-lading sent to him) to push them to best advantage and to let M^{r}. W^{m}. Price [2] of the land office, and Capt^{n}. John Hopkins,[3] have as many copies as they chuse; and 50 copies to Fredericksb^{g} to Mullin. O take care of the nails, whose villainous points, notwithstanding all remonstrances, still continue to tear & rend the lamb skin cover^{d}. Goldsmith.

Adieu, D^{r}. Carey, Adieu.

Best respects attend your dear peace making consort and family

[1] 'To the Public.' A long article by Thomas Daniell, wherein he makes affidavit before 'Alexander Lithgow Justice of the Peace for the County of Prince-William.' *Virginia Gazette & Agricultural Repository* (Dumfries, Va.), June 14, 1792, AAS.

[2] William Price elected Cashier General of the Mutual Insurance Co., Richmond. See *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Feb. 14, 1806, AAS. — Major William Price appointed one of the vigilance committee for the defence of Richmond in 1813. See *Richmond: Her Past and Present*, W. Asbury Christian, D.D., Richmond, 1912, p. 86, LC. — William Price buys a building-lot from Mr. Thomas Rutherfoord of Richmond. See *Richmond in By-Gone Days; being Reminiscences of An Old Citizen* [*Samuel Mordecai*], Richmond, 1856, p. 100, LC.

[3] John Hopkins of Richmond: one of the group of men under whose superintendence the Bank of Richmond was started in 1793; with others, went security for Aaron Burr, Apr. 1, 1807. See *Richmond: Her Past and Present* (see note 2), pp. 46, 66, LC. — John Hopkins, Commissioner of Loans, Broad St. & Seventh, Richmond. See *Richmond in By-Gone Days* (see note 2), pp. 88, 101, LC.

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Oct^r. 21 1796.

Your favour of the 15^th Inst I rec^d a few Hours since, but you will allow me so much fair play, as to suppose a little in my turn. Well, then let me Suppose that a Certain M^r. Mullen, a Certain M^r. prentiss, or other person enlisted under our banner to sell One or two thousand Dollars p^r. Annum, and suppose it not to be necessary to go by Stage from Dumfries to place the Boxes or Trunks — Suppose therefore no inconvenience of Traveling, incurred, neither the squalling of Children, the Screaming of Women, or the imprecations of Men — this train of suppositions is at least as possible as Yours. But we will have done with Suppositions for the present — and proceed to the Lotery plan. This is an Idea worthy of such a fertile brain as yours and by proper Management I make no doubt, will be attended with signal success. I think however 20,000 tickets one half too many. You would never be able to dispose of them 10,000 at two Dollars would answer better; the prises might be

1	of ..	2000 ..	2000
2	of ..	1000 ..	2000
3	of ..	500 ..	1500
10	of ..	200 ..	2000
10	of ..	100 ..	1000
100	of ..	20 ..	2000
3200	of ..	3 ..	9600
			20,100

Subject to 20 pr Ct Discount —

Some difficulty would occur in the Drawing, if there was any public Lottery of 10,000 tickets, Yours might be engrafted on it, this might save a great expence and much time. . . .

I hope it [*Goldsmith*] will have arrived at a good Market and produce Golden fruits. —

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Dumfries. Octob. 18, [17]96.

Dear Sir. Your letter of the 14. Ins^t. is arriv^d. — We have not, thank God, been very idle this summer past, neither has that halcyon season been altogether destitute of fruit. However, it has not been near so productive as might have been wished. Goldsmith is wanted everywhere. I am glad to hear that our three decker, Guthrie, is about heaving up, and will soon, winds & waves conspiring, shew his welcome

prow in our Virginian Rivers. The sooner that you can have 200 or 300 copies of Animated Nat[*ure*]. in the Potomak the better. For I have a good many Adjutants to whom I must furnish a great many copies for their respective Subscribers, and from these Adjutants (good Men & true), I shall, tho' not *instantly*, yet *soon* and *constantly*, be gathering supplies, sufficient to keep you in blast. As to the books (Goldsmiths & Guthries I mean) which I so languishingly wish to see at Alexandria for the *upper country* use, O for pitys sake spare the sweet little lamb skin covering of my books. Let no nail shew his impious point within the hallowed concave of my trunks, but let each flanking books [*sic*] (the outside ones I mean) be well secured with three fold paper, for they have a journey of at least 80 or 100 miles, to make over hills and stony roads. The trunks must, likewise, be well matted & corded. The upper country which I propose to supply, via Alexandria, includes Shepperds town, Martinsberg, Winchester, Culpeper, Fauquier, &c. &c. for these 150 Copies will do (for the *present*). You will be so good as to let me know, *very particularly*, the trunks which contain the books for *that expedition*, because, concluding them to be *well paper*[d] & *secured*, I shall not give myself the trouble to unlock & repack, but push them off by the first waggons, that favoring fortune, may throw in my way. As to our Lottery, fear not that it may clash with and interrupt our subscriptioneering & vending business. It shall not check, but harmoniously pour its confluent flood and roll on in the brimful banks of our confederate[d] business. I want your sentiments with respect to the lottery. You cannot, you durst not but approve it. Philanthropy, Glory, Interest, every thing says that it must and shall succeed. All to whom I have mentioned it since I wrote to you, extol it to the skies. Not one only, but many lotteries, yes, under proper management many lotteries may lend their friendly aid to educate the Needy Young, to enlighten (by your good books) the public mind, and to bring much Joy, honor and profit to ourselves. Washington w[d], I dare say, lend his name & interest, and the Virginia Assembly, now shortly to sit, will give its permit. I shall do what I can for the books shipp[d] pr the Diana, but as I am *all anxiety* to fly thro the country to stop the mouths of my own clamerous subscrib[s] and to furnish my adjutants with quotas for their subscrib[s], I think it better to attend undistractedly to this one object,

and not retard my progress with the comparatively dead weight of books unengag^{d}. In eight or nine weeks I hope to have leisure to attend to as many irons as you may chuse to clap into the forge. Of the two trunks of assorted books sent to Norfolk, pr the Industry, I lodg^{d}. one in the hands of Capt^{n}. Tucker (with whom you'^{d} do well to leave a large supply of *handsome books*) and the other I sent on to Richmond to care of Rob. Pollard. It was not arriv^{d} when I came thro that city. But all will be well — of that sent to me at Fredericksburg, I have *distributed* about one half, the rest is with M^{r}. Mullen.

Your prescription, "to wait some days in & near Dumfries, to afford Hand time to arrive at Alexandria," is, tho sweeten^{d} by the society of a much lov^{d} Wife, rather an unpalatable portion. For, believe me, that man walks not this earth to whom Inactivity is more intolerable than it is to, D^{r}. Sir

your MASON L. WEEMS

NB. M^{r}. Nathaniel Hunter of Dumfries, wishes that you w^{d} send with his 4 or 500 Dol. supply a good assortment of blank books. He says that all those imported with his Goods, tho very dear, went off very fast, and still great is the demand for more. Don't be afraid that Hunter will interfere with Brundige.

Best love to M^{rs}. C. & Family,

If you can send me (for one of our Friends) Pleyel's 6 Grand Sonata's [1] interspers^{d} with Scotch airs &c. and Soame *Jennyn's Works*,[2] you will do well. Be pleas^{d} to mark in what trunk they are deposited, & *superficially*, to save trouble of diving.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

NORFOLK. [*Oct?*]23. [17]96.

DEAR SIR — . . . The politeness and punctuality of Capt^{n}. Green of the good schooner Industry claim not only my thanks, but a request that you w^{d} always give him the preference of any freight address^{d} to

D^{r}. Sir

Your Friend

Best Compts to your Lady.

[1] Pleyel, *Three Grand Sonatas*, London, 1795, LC.

[2] *The Works of Soame Jenyns, Esq.*, London, M.DCC.XCIII, LC.

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Dumf. Oct. 24. [17]96.

Matthew Carey, Esq.,
Judaizing Bookseller.

Friend and Fellow Democrat, Viz. Yours of the 15 & 17, 17 & 19 are all arriv[d] in good order & well condition[d].

As I am in good hopes to dispose of 100 Copies of Gutherie in the town of Alexandria & within the comfortable sweep of 60 miles of it, were it not highly adviseable to send me them e'er the Infant Boreas has had time to muster his tremendous forces. And let me intreat thee, my dear Fellow Democrat, by our mutual friendships and by our mutual interests to lend the *swiftest wings* to those Goldsmiths coming to Alexandria for the West[*ern*]. Virginian expedition. *Believe* me, thou wilt find it greatly thy interest to lay me in here 300 copies of Goldsmith for my winter provision. And the sooner thou sendest them the better. For how can'st thou send them in the Winter when every wind is a storm and every wave running mountain high threatens distruction to the labouring bark? — A friend of mine in Martinsburg got me sometime ago 20 Subscribers to Blair's lectures,[1] but on an old subscription paper of mine at 18/ 9 pr. Copy. If you can send me on those 20 Copies, via Alexandria and on the same fleet of [*as*] Goldsmith bound on the West[*ern*] Virginian expedition, I shall I hope, bring them to a ready market. You'll mark them, if *you please*, with a *light hand*. — As remnants, you know, even with Hucksters sell low. We shall find it our interest perhaps to reprint a *small*, neat edition of that ever useful & necessary work shortly.

Quouscunque Catilina! how long, thou eldest born of confusion, how long wilt thou continue to send the *books* to South James River, and the *invoice* to the head waters of Patomak? Woud God thou woudst always suffer the invoice to sleep in peace in the same trunk that contains the books!

From time to time I've given thee much good advice (the Lord remember me for it) for the which I now intreat that thou woudst, as a

[1] *Lectures on Rhetoric and Belles Lettres.* By Hugh Blair. . . . In Two Volumes. The 2d American ed. From the 4th London ed. Philadelphia, The Press of M. Carey. March 19, 1793.

token of thy gratitude, desire Friend Jacob Johnson [1] to send me 10 of the 2 vol. of Blair's Sermons, which I pray thee to put into trunks sailing for Alexandria.

I hasten immediately to that town to distribute and to do as thou hast requir[d] and as Heaven may enable me.

This I hope will be the last empty letter that thou wilt receive from thy Friend,

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Oct[r]. 24, 1796.

. . . With respect to the Lottery the more I consider it the more I admire the plan, I have no doubt of the practicability of it in your hands, I am inclined to think it would be better to have 250 in [*8 ?*] Dollar prizes than the one prize of 2000 Dollars as I proposed in my last, the reason of this alteration must be obvious to you. . . .

About the 17[th]. of next month I have some very heavy payments to make, they are such as terrify me exceedingly; the more especially, as the mighty bubble in the Commercial world, blowed up by the potent breath of that distructive Monster Speculation, has begun to burst, and threatens to produce Scenes of Distress, of which we have had no examples for many years past. I therefore request you as you tender my Credit, and my esteem for you to redouble your wonted exertions. All the money you are able to collect between now and the 17[th]. send me at such time as to reach here on that day.

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Dumfries, Nov. 1, [17]96.

Matthew Carey. Brother. Your last talk has troubled me much. You long for money, you say, like as the thirsty Buck longs for cool water. Now, *that* goes to my heart; not that I a'nt willing to let you have money but because you w'ont let me have opportunity to get you money. Many people in this country wish for nothing so much as to give you money for your books, but when I tell you of this you always remind me of 76 copies of Goldsmith sent, two moons ago, to Alexandria

[1] Jacob Johnson & Co., prominent printers of 147 Market Street, Philadelphia, printed 'For the Rev. M. L. Weems' *The History of a Reprobate; or, the very Interesting and Surprising Adventures of David Doubtful.* By Mr. Brooke. Second American edition. Philadelphia. . . . 1795. (*Bibliography, title 233.*) Also *The American Farmer's Guide.* . . . Philadelphia . . . [*n.d., 1795–1796?*]. (*Bibliography, title 234.*)

by capt. Pearson. Now hear how I always do in such like cases, — whenever I enter a town in company with Animated Nature I sell all that I can to the subscribers on the spot, and leave the rest in the hands of Adjutants, good men & true, to sell and to hold the money for me 'till I return. This I did in the case of the above 76. While I was engag[d] to the Southward you sent them to M[c]Iver who (according to direction) put them into hands that will I trust next week furnish me with the monies with the usual discount of 1 Copy for 4. I likewise, trust that I shall be able to do for you next week, some thing clever at Alexandria, with Gutherie. I wish you to send on to Alexandr[ia] by the *first opportunity* 1, 2 or 3 Doz. of our *new* subscription books. You w[d] find your interest in sending Mess[rs]. Lithgow & Hunter Dumfries, a handsome assortment. I shall not lose sight of the lottery. Neither shall it interfere with our other strings of the bow. Wou[d] God you w[d] desire M[r]. Bailey, to whom I sent 100 Dol. the other day, to send on some of the Mentor to Alexandria & Fredericksb[g] *according* to my directions. I need not tell you that I shall do for you *all* that so ill-furnished a Man *can* do for you.

Inclos[d] I send you 3–20 Dol. notes.

While you were to the Northward I desir[d] your good Lady to pacify M[r]. James Wilson Book binder Wilmington, who was about that time very outrageous with me on account of some little children's books (12 cents worth of wit) [1] which he had bound for me and for which my poverty at that period w[d] not allow me to pay him. If M[rs]. Cary's many perplexities at that widow[d] season, did not allow her to attend to it, I shall greatly thank you to quiet M[r]. Wilson on that head and to keep the little books (between 7 or 800) for D[r]. Sir, your

Best wishes attend M[rs]. C. & family.

[1] *Twelve Cents Worth of Wit, or, Little Stories For little folks of all denominations.* Adorned with Cuts. . . . Philadelphia: Printed for John Curtis, Bookbinder and Stationer, North 4th street No. 43, [*n.d. 1795?*], AAS. The title of this book may have been taken from an English chapbook called: *Six Penny-worth of Wit For a Penny, or, Dreams Interpreted.* By John Booker. . . . Printed for W. Thackeray, at the sign of the Angel in Duck-Lane, [*n.d. 177–?*], LC. There is evidence that Weems tried to sell this book [*Bibliography, title 242A*]. — 'The packmen of the past . . . carried in their packs the ephemeral literature of the day, Calendars, Almanacks, and Chap-Books. The Leicestershire pronunciation to this day at markets is "Buy Chep" for Cheap, hence . . . the derivation of Chapmen, or Rummy, Flying, and other mercurial stationers, peripatetic booksellers, pedlers, packmen, and again chepmen.' *Banbury Chap Books*, Edwin Pearson, London, 1890, pp. 5, 6, LC.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Nov. 7, [*1796*].

You are constantly complaining of the inadequacy of your supplies and do not appear to reflect that you are yourself the sole cause of the disappointment. — You do not write often enough and leave me almost constantly ignorant of your intended route. I have at this moment above 100 Goldsmith bound and do not know how to dispose of them. If I send them to James River or Rapahannock they may lie there for two months, till your arrival and when you go westward I may be unable to supply you.

Had you made me earlier acquainted with your projected route — & with the time you expected to arrive in each place, I would have been able to furnish you completely, But in spite of all my repeated applications you have paid no attention to this very material article of your duty.

You ought to write me by every post let your letters be ever so short. I write two letters for your one.

How goes the Lottery? Ought you not [*to*] avail yourself of the present session of the Legislature?

Nov^r. 9^th^ 1796

. . . Your neglect of writing still continues and its consequences you will surely feel. You seem determined to oblige me to keep the Books, or to send them by chance or by Guess. I shall trouble you no more on the Subject, as I presume it would be in vain.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Alexandria, Nov. 10. [*17*]96.

It seemeth to me that Matthew Carey, Esq^r^. must have had his seven senses swallow^d^ up in the late mighty vortex of Politics. "I have a hundred Copies of Goldsmith ready but know *not in what direction to send them*"

This may be fun to you, but to me tis worse than vexation of spirit. I have been telling you for three weeks past that I am dying for 250 copies of Goldsmith at Alexandria and yet you are at a loss where to send me them! I want 100 Copies to be sent hither on the swiftest wings of Canvas to supply my Winchester, &c. Subscrib[*ers*] and 150 or 200 for my Potomak Patrons. . . .

Health & Fraternity

Were ever disappointments like mine?

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Nov^r. 11^th. 1796.

. . . I have 400 sets of the Rambler, 8^vo and between 3 & 400 sets of Fleetwoods life of Christ. I am printing Subscription papers for both.

I hope to have 150 Sets of Guthrie bound before the end of this month, or at farthest the middle of next. How many do you suppose you will want during the Winter?

M^r. Austin offers me 70 copies of Burket at a liberal Credit. I feel pretty much disposed to take them, do you advise, or dissuade me? NB. I am unable to assertain which of Watsons apologies was sent you. Will [*you*] let me know.

Nov^r. 14^th 1796

. . . Why so silent on the lottery business. Is it relinquished? . . .

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Dumfries. Nov. 11, [17]96.

Dear Sir, *confusion worse confounded!* *Hand* is not yet come to *hand!* Just from Alexandria where I pick^d up 160 Dol. for you, of which I sent you 70. pr last, now send you 100. God of Heaven, why sh^dst. thou add to my cup already overflowing with ills, the gall of Mathew Carey's complaints that I give him no directions where to send his books! I've told you a *thousand times* that I am dead and buried and all for a few restorative doses of Goldsmith, and yet, cruel, unfeeling Man, you continue to say that I give you no directions whither to send them! Well, once more — for my sake — for your sake and for God's sake send me on *instantly* 200 Copies to Alexandria — 50 to Richmond & 25 to Petersburg & 25 to Norfolk, to the usual addresses of Tucker, Grammar, Pollard and M^cIver. Add 25 more to Fredericksburg. I go again day after tomorrow to Alexand^a. to meet Hand. O that he may be come, for I want to send you money. The lottery is not forgotten. Week after next, I go to Richmond to wait on the legislat[*ure*]. W^d heaven you coud lay[*?*]-about a successful search of some good high sounding collection of Voyages &^c. &^c. &^c. Be assur^d it w^d go like Sampson's fiery foxes among the Philistian corn.

Doblebower's Collection [1] was tried here at Alexand[a]. the other day and the ballance of the edition was sold very readily.

Ask Bailey why he will not send me a few copies of the Mentor, tho' it were but to cool my parched tongue. Bid him think of Davies & dispair. Beg him to send me tho it be but 200 copies to Alexandria & Fredericksburg and if I do not within 15 days remit him half the number of Dollars (which by the way) is more than his part, he need send me no more. Now Carey don't forget this and all my other requests and your Petition[*er*] shall as in duty bound, for ever pray

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Nov[r]. 15[th] 1796.

. . . Having told you early enough of my wants on the 17[th]. ins[t]. I feel a strong confidence of receiving from you by next post a Copious Supply. If you disappoint me, you shall have my heaviest malidictions on Your Head.

You have never informed me whether you have made any progress with the Books on the new plan of Subscription. This like many other of Your Ommissions is likely to be attended with very injurious consequences, when, by & by, you call on me for large numbers of those Books, you will be ready to Exclaim, "was ever disappointment like mine," on finding that I am unable to supply you.

Of Guthrie I expect by Saturday to have 40 bound. Have you given up the idea of the Lottery? Why so silent on the Subject, for some time past?

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Alexandria. 16. Nov. [17]96.

Dear Sir, Inclos[d] I send you 70 Dollars. By the last mail I sent you 100 Dol. By the next hope to send you more or less.

Hand is come and I have just began to distribute.

In the Atlases, the Map of the U. States has *no place!*

Pray don't run me mad with thy complaints that I do not write to thee often enough, nor send thee directions whither to send thy books

[1] Undoubtedly a reference to *The World Displayed, or a Curious Collection of Voyages and Travels*, published by Dobelbower, Key and Simpson, 1796. See note 1 to Carey's letter of Jan. 4, 1797.

to me. Send me on 200 Goldsmiths to this place. The keys of the trunks are lost in many instances.

I go off to Richmond on Monday to petition the Legislature in behalf of our Lottery.

I think you may send 100 Guthrie to that place for my Winter's picking. Some more Goldsmiths must be sent thither.

I shall say more in my next. Adieu.

L. & F. Vol. 23.

GEO. TOWN. Nov. 17. [17]96.

DEAR SIR. I came to this place five hours ago with a small trunk of Guthrie. My success, hitherto not to be complain[d] of, has now sustain[d] a little check, owing partly to the absence, partly to the empty purses of my subscribers. And to make bad worse, I am oblig[d] to decamp instantly in order to hasten off to Richmond to the Legislature now in session. It seems, I must throw in my petition with respect to the lottery, in a given time or it will all be holy-day with me. Inclos[d] I send you 70 Dollars.

Give my best wishes to your type setting and good Brother, & tell him that I will assist him in the affair of Master Tommy Pain provided he will print them with Watson's reply.[1] I know your brother likes fair play. Let him draw off handsome proposals to that effect and send them to me. (at least *50 papers*) to Alexandria, and I think I shall be able to do wonders for him. — On my return from Richmond, which will be in 2 weeks I shall hasten up to Alexandria to receive your Goldsmith of the lost [*last*] mission and to send them to Winchester Martinsburg &[c]. &[c]. I think I shall be able to sell for you at Richmond during this Winter, 100 copies Guthrie, and 60 at Fredericksburg and 100 at Alexandria. . . .

I shall want 20 Goldsmith at Alexandria, 50 more at Fredericksburg, 50 at Richmond, and 50 at Petersburg [*and*] 50 at Norfolk.

Wishing you much health & fraternity, I remain,

Best respects to M[rs]. C. & Family.

[1] James Carey at times followed this suggestion. (See *Bibliography, title 243.*)

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Nov. 21st. 1796.

. . . For Sundry reasons I would not wish to have my name introduced into the Lottery business.

Novr. 23rd. 1796

Friend Weems, Few things amaze me more than the utter impossibility I find of prevailing on you to inform me of your Success, with respect to the long list of Books I give you. Verily brother this grieveth me full sore; for I can affirm to thee with a due regard to christian Sincerity, that this Affair is to thy fellow Labourer an Object of immense consequence, as confiding in its Success, he has prepared for that plan some thousands of Dollars worth.

I intended sending the next Supply to Richmond; but your return to Alexandria will be so speedy, that I shall first send to the latter place.

Mr. Thomas complains that you sell Goldsmith for 6 to 8 Dollars and Guthrie for 14 to 14½ Dollars. Can this be true? I hope not. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Alexandria. Nov. 24 [*1796*].

Dear Carey — This will be presented to you by Master Henry Moore, a young Friend of mine who has for some time past assisted me as an Aid de camp in our very laudable and important business of Book Selling. He *has been* and will I doubt not *continue* to be very obliging and successful, for his ingenuity and address are far riper than his years. I hardly need add that any attentions shewn to him will be greatfully remembered by, Dr. Carey,

Yours

Volti —

. . . As to the Lottery — a petition went off yesterday to the Honorb. the Assembly in favor of it. The Petition was so handsomely recommended that I think it must go down.[1] . . .

Health & Fraternity,

[1] See note to letter of Oct. 15, 1796.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Nov^r. 28^th. [17]96

. . . Of Miscellaneous books on the new plan of Subscription, I have shiped you nearly two thousand Dollars, but cannot force from you by any entreaties the smallest information respecting them.

The propriety of the Store Scheim is rendered very Questionable, by a circumstance which I am going to Communicate to you. From Bedinger [1] Lee,[2] and Martin, I have not yet rec^d a Single Dollar, nor a Single line, and it is impossible for any man of Common Capital to cary on Business on the Extensive scale contemplated without the utmost regularity in remittance.

Mr. Mullen who appeared to assent unconditionally to the terms I stated has as yet sent me only One A / C sales altho I stipulated for weekly returns. I have written so often to him on the Subject, that I am quite tired of it, pray have some discourse with him on the Subject, as you pass trough Fredericksburg. —

With respect to the Lottery Business urge the Scheme with your utmost exertion, a great N^o. of small and midling prizes, would, for obvious reasons, answer better than a few very large ones. . . .

Dec^r. 2^nd. 1796.

. . . Nothing can equal my astonishmen^t. that I cannot by any means, or by any entreaties, extort a line from you respecting the Miscellaneous, Subscription list. In that business I have embarked at least 4 to 5000 Dollars, and it is to the last degree distressing to be kept in utter ignorance as to what is its actual success — what its plausible prospects.

My determination is fully fixed to suspend the store business till Spring, to see how affairs appear. The few attempts I have made, under your auspices, hold not out the most inviting aspect.

P.S. You have sent me more empty letters of late than I expected.

Dec^r. 5^th. 1796.

. . . I bought 400 Rambler 3 or 400 Life of Christ, and 150 Burket on the Testament, wholly & entirely for you. The two first had you

[1] 'Insurance Society against Fire! . . . Books of subscriptions are open at . . . Mr. Henry Bedinger's, at Shepard's-Town . . .' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* (Virginia), June 23, 1795 *et seq.*, HU.

[2] Possibly 'Notice From the Marshal of Virginia . . . Names of Persons appointed by the Marshal for taking the third Census for the year 1810: [*for*] . . . Essex [*County*] . . . George W. Lee . . . Richmond, April 30, 1810.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), May 1, 1810, AAS.

written on the subject, I could have bound, and in Virginia, before now. The life of Christ I have had in my possession since August. The Rambler I received about Six weeks ago, Burket I expect hourly, ready bound. They sell at 7 dollars. I have them for 5 — and will charge them to you at 6. I have an offer of 150 More, on the same terms, — ought I to accept them? Where, when the first parcel arrives shall I forward them?

With respect to Money Matters: I think you not quite so prompt of late, as I expected. I was in hopes that the remittances would keep pace with my consignments; which might be done by your reserving your own share 'till the close of the distribution. My demands are to the last degree urgent. Late as it is, I have not yet been able to buy a Bill for any of my Correspondents in Europe. Let me therefore request you to increase your Exertions.

Dec^r. 8^th. 1796.

. . . I only ask you to place yourself in my situation. I have Sacrificed to you *nearly* THE WHOLE profits of the second work in point of importance that I ever printed. For the trifling advance on first cost will do little more than pay the interest of the money expended. To this circumstance I should not now advert but to enforce the justice of my expectations, that remittances should keep pace with shipments of Goldsmith at least. with respect to the other articles, I could not expect paym^t. for them untill they were disposed of.

The want of information of the progress of the new plan, besides its irksomeness, has been highly injurious. I have gone to vast expence for binding, under the idea of its Success. Should my very sanguine expectations be disappointed, the disbursem^t. of the Money will prove very inconvenient.

The last remittance I had from you was received the 22^nd. ul^t. — in fact since the 10^th. of October I have received only 370 Dollars, this would not pay 25 per cent of the expence of binding for you since that time.

Will you let me know what I ought to do with respect to Burket?

Dec^r. 12^th. 1796.

The arrival of the Mail today without a line from you, could add by little to the vexation I experienced when I wrote you last. This Conduct is to me wholly unaccountable. A man who has placed such unlimited confidence in you — a man whose future prospects must be materially affected by the good or ill success of a project, in which is embarked a handsome fortune, such a Man, I say, is from every motive of decency

& Gratitude entitled to the compliment of a regular correspondence. If you cannot raise money to answer my demands, you can surely procure paper, pens, and Ink, and I have often told you, I shall never hesitate paying postage.

Would to heaven you experienced for a week the anxiety and Chagrin . . .

Decr. 13th. 1796

. . . I begin to charge myself with folly and imprudence. I am Shipping my property to an immence amount, to a Man who makes me no remittances for weeks together — and from whom, no prayers, no entreaties, can extort a line of information.

Nevertheless, I am now preparing, two Shipments, one by the Dolphin, Dencke — The other by the [*left blank*] Potter. The amount will be 1000 a / 15000 $.

Let me, I beg of you, not be under the necessity of writing in this state again, it is not pleasant to me — it cannot be agreeable to you.

Will you give me any information respecting Rambler, Life of Christ & Burket? . . .

L. & F. Vol. 23.

DUMFRIES. Dec. 18. [17]96.

SIR. . . . I receivd your letters yesterday. I shall not attempt, for no words of Man or Angel can adequately express that astonishment grief and ragewhich alternately tortured my bosom. Lord God of Heaven and Earth! that I who have felt such ambition to shew you what I coud do for you; that I who during the *alone 12 weeks* in which you furnishd Goldsmith *DID manifest* what I coud do for you; that I who for *nine* O precious lost weeks, have been begging and beseeching you to send me Goldsmith, that I shoud after all these disappointments, disappointments of my *own most* eager expectations disappointments of my numerous and clamerous Subscribers, shd now be faulted for not doing — what? Why, for not sending money while you most unkindly withheld the means of procuring it. Suspend your surprise. McIver has just informd me that the books are come. I hasten off by tomorrows light to Alexanda. You shall have a remittance & hear from your

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Dec. 21. [17]96

Sir: By today's mail I sent you 100 Dol. by the 2d Mail from this I shall make you another remittance. This will be delivered to you by Mr. Bertrand Ewell [1] (whose Sister, I had the honor to marry) who is now in Philada, making up some large stores for Kentucky. Mr. Ewell furnishd me with a horse for which I owe him 16 copies of Goldsmith. You will be pleasd to let him have them on demand and charge them to

M. L. Weems.

L. & F. Vol. 23.
Decemb. 21 [17]96.

Sir, . . . I wd not advise you to purchase any more of Burkit. As to the miscellanious books I shall tell you more in my next, when I shall convince you how much you have injurd

Your Friend,

NB. I shall write by every mail.

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Decr. 22 [1796].

I shall not attempt for no words of "man or angel, can adequately express the astonishment, grief, & rage which alternately tortured my bosom," for three [*or*] four weeks past.[2] "Lord God of heaven & earth!" that "I who have felt such ambition to shew you what I could do for you — that I who during four weeks past have written you so many letters without a word of answer" that I should after all these disappointments

[1] Bertrand Ewell, brother of Fanny, Weems' wife, and of Dr. James Ewell of the *Medical Companion*. See *Hayden's Genealogies*, p. 339, LC. Weems sometimes spelled the name '*Bertram*.' — *Ad.* 'For Sale, A Tract of Land, lying upon Occoquan run, near spring's ford, in the county of Prince William . . . 200 and 70 acres; the land is much broken, but rents at present for 10 pounds a year, and may be rented for any length of time, at the same price; a constant strem [*sic*] "sufficient to turn a mill," runs thro' the land on which is a very considerable fall; and from the thick settlement in that neighborhood, as well as from the general want of a good mill there, I have no doubt but that a mill at that place would be very profitable; it is about 12 miles from Dumfries, & nearly the same distance from Colchester; any person inclining to purchase may know the terms by applying to Bertrand Ewell, jun. Dumfries, 9th May, 1792.' *Virginia Gazette & Agricultural Repository* (Dumfries), June 14, 1792, AAS.

[2] For Carey's wrath, whether genuine or assumed, see *Appendix XVI*.

of my eager expectations, should now be faulted — & for what? — for trying to extort a line of information from a man who by every tie of interest & duty is bound to write regularly. I have already told you a dozen times that much of your disappointments have arisen from want of information. I now tell you the same thing again & still further, that whatever may be the difficulty of raising money, there cannot, there ought not to be any in the way of writing. I ought to know what are the prospects of a business in which I have embarked in toto little short of 20,000 Dollars. Is not this a truth?

I once more invoke & beseech you by all your hopes of happiness here & hereafter to let me have an answer to my queries about Burket, the Life of Christ & the Rambler.

Decr. 26 [*1796*].

. . . I have given full consideration to the subject of *our* late letters, and wish coolly and calmly to discuss the matter. Let the issue of the business be as it may, I wish either to convince you I am right, or to afford you an opportunity to convince me.

So far as money is concerned, I think you will allow that you gave me reason to expect greater supplies lately than I have recd. From the arrival of Hand, Elwood and Duer with very large supplies (the last with one hundred & upwards of Goldsmith) the others with Guthrie &c, to a very great amt, I have recd but 140 dollars. Were my wants less urgent I should not feel uneasy at this for in such a case, it would not be of any importance whether I re'd the money this week, the next, or the week after. But in the present state of money matters, one day's delay produces inconvenience to which language cannot do Justice. Therefore, when such large supplies had arrived I naturally looked for returns from mail to mail & it was no wonder that disappointments so often repeated should sour and irritate me.

But whatever I felt on the subject of remittance, was trivial, when compared with the chagrin arrising from such a total neglect of writing. The 16, 17 & 24th of Nov. are the dates of the last letters I rec'd before Friday although I had written in the interim eight or ten. I knew as well as any man the difficulty of raising money. The failures of remittance I can and do make allowance [*for*] but there is little allowance to be made for silence, when a man is on a post road, and has paper, pens & ink at command.

These observations, just in general acquire additional force in the present case. I had repeatedly begged & prayed for information on the subject of the miscellaneous Books, and to this hour I have not a single

line to let me know what may be the issue of the business. I bought the Rambler and the life of Christ solely for you, & have in every letter for weeks back enquired what I ought to do with them but in vain, & with respect to Burket I have only one solitary line.

Dec^r. 28 [*1796.*]

. . . 1^st When on my last Journey to the Eastward, I made extremely large exchanges merely to a view to the new subscription plan I took 1000 Copies of Cooks Voyages alone, of several other books I took 1, 2, & 300 — you are enough acquainted with the business to be able, by the assistance of Wilson Conrad, &c to Calculate the large sums of money that the mere binding of these books must consume. Of the Laws of the U. States, I engaged not only an exchange, but to be paid for in Cash no less than 1500. The solicitude you have discovered about the Immortal Mentor & other small books will excuse me from detailing my anxiety & my vexation — That I have not to this hour, in spite of the most urgent & oft repeated solicitations been able to draw from you a single word of information on the business — whether I ought to proceed with binding or not — whether I ought to send forward the books already bound, or retain them. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 23.

Geo. Town. Dec. 29, [*17*]96.

Sir, Inclos^d you will find 30 Dollars. What few Goldsmiths your Yankee Book Smuglers w^d allow to be sent *at last*, are come to hand. Yesterday morning was employ^d in packing off to Winchester &^c. &^c. whither I shall go in a few days. In the afternoon I cross^d the Potomac on the ice with a trunk of books which I left in Bladensburg for sale. —

You shall have a line and a remittance by the 1^st or 2^d mail subsequent. I had the good fortune last week to lay my hand on a Book which I do *most earnestly* covet to reprint — "Hogarth Moralized." [1] A work celebrated by the greatest and best critics, Vid[*e*], an essay on it by the famous M^r. Knox, Author of the Essay. A work more edifying than a thousand Sermons. I mention^d the idea of reprinting it to two or three very considerable Characters of this town all of whom highly approv'd and instantly offer^d to patronize it.

[1] *The Works of Mr. Hogarth, Moralized.* London. J. Goodwin, . . . [*n.d. 1768*] Sq. 8vo. LC. No edition issued by Weems ever found by me.

The copy which I have is an Octavo. That size is far far too small. It must be done on a large folio. The copy before me contains 78 plates, many of which being mere pieces of *humour*, I w^d^ omit, and retain those only that are of the finest moral tendency. Viz. — Harlots progress in 6 Plates. Rakes ditt^o^ 8. Marriage a la mode 6. The good Apprentice 6. The Idle Apprentice 6. Four stages of Cruelty 4, Moses Before Pharaoh's Daughter 1, Total 37.

Now if these can be done on a folio paper in a masterly manner and pretty reasonably, there is no doubt but it w^d^ greatly benefit the Public and amply repay the virtuous & truly patriotic toils of Carey & Weems. I shall be absent about a fortnight, in that time you may get full information & write to me

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Dec. 30 [*1796.*]

. . . I expected this letter to have brought me some information respecting Guthrie the Rambler the Miscellaneous collection of Books. I have rec^d^. none.

What am I to do? I am desirous to be acquainted with the fate of a business of the last moment to me. If I ask information pressingly you tell me I *injure you*. But whether I ask or not whether I pray or preach it is all in vain.

As it is an unpleasant season of the year to travel — and as business demands my time and as I would not wish to incur the expence of a journey to the Southward, at a time when the hours of winter render it to the last degree ineligible, I therefore conjure you in the name of the living God not to impose a necessity of going to Alexandria or Dumfries to ask Viva Voce questions which I have repeated in almost every letter I have written for seven or eight weeks past.

To express myself without heat or passion to stifle the chagrin that devours me — I shall only say, that in cours of my whole life I have never met with a circumstance that appeared more provoking or more extraordinary than your silence on the occasion.

Has Duer arrived? If he has what became of the 100 setts of Goldsmith he carried? have you got any subscribers for Guthrie, For the Laws? [1]

[1] *Ad.* 'This Day is Published, By H. & P. Rice, No. 16, south Second-Street, Robert Campbell, Young, Mills & Son, and Mathew Carey, Laws of the United States from the commencement of the Federal Government, to the end of the last session of Congress, which terminated March 3, 1797, in three volumes, price Six Dollars. This edition, published under an

for Jefferson?[1] for the Atlass? for the Childrens Friend?[2] In fine for any of the 24 Books in my subscription list? have I been guilty of Folly in purchasing for you 400 Rambler & nearly the same number of the life of Christ & 150 Burket . . .?

order of the Congress of the United States, has many peculiar advantages. . . . in the present edition there is one copious, luminous index, compiled by Zephaniah Swift, Esq, referring to all the volumes, and comprising in itself, a complete digest of all the laws of the United States. April 28.' *Merchants Daily Advertiser* (Philadelphia), April 28, 1797 *et seq.*, GTOF. — 'The Laws of United States of America. Six volumes 8vo. N.B. The succeeding volumes may be had as they appear.' Listed in *Catalogue of Books, Printed for, and sold by Mathew Carey*, . . . in back of 10th ed., 1810, of Weems' *Life of Washington*. NYPL. — '. . . a letter . . . from Mathew Carey, of the city of Philadelphia, printer and bookseller, stating that he has on hand, and can supply, . . . a number of printed copies of Swift's edition of the Laws of the United States, for the use of the members of both Houses of Congress.' *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States for the 7th and 8th Congress*, Washington, D. C., 1826, p. 537, LC.

[1] *Notes on the State of Virginia.* By Thomas Jefferson. . . . Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey . . . 1794. LC. — 'Mr. Jefferson's Notes on Virginia was the first book that taught me to think.' *Travels . . . United States*, John Davis, 1803, p. 167, LC.

[2] *The Children's Friend. Translated from the French of Mr. Berquin*, by Lucas Williams, Esq. . . . In Six Volumes. London: M, DCC,-XCIII. LC. Sometimes called *The Looking Glass for the Mind.* — 'Another French book, by Berquin, entitled "Ami des Enfans" . . . for half a century . . . was to be found in the shop of all booksellers, and had its place in the library of every family of means. There are still those among us who have not forgotten the impression produced upon their infant minds by certain of the tales. Some remember the cruel child and the canary. Others recollect their admiration of the little maid who, when all others deserted her young patroness, lying ill with the smallpox, won the undying gratitude of the mother by her tender nursing. The author, blind himself to the possibilities of detriment to the sick child by unskilled care, held up to the view of all, this example of devotion of one girl in contrast to the hard-heartedness of many others. This book seems also to have been called by the literal translation of its original title, "Ami des Enfans;" for in an account of the occupations of one summer Sunday in seventeen hundred and ninety-seven, Julia Cowles, living in Litchfield, Connecticut, wrote: "Attended meeting all day long, but do not recollect the text. Read in 'The Children's Friend.'" Many children would not have been permitted to read so nearly secular a book; but evidently Julia Cowles's parents were liberal in their view of Sunday reading after the family had attended "meeting all day long."' *Forgotten Books of the American Nursery*, Rosalie V. Halsey, p. 134, LC.

Si le trésor n'est pas pur, ce n'en est pas moins un trésor. — ANATOLE FRANCE.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.
Jan. 4 [*1797?*]

. . . I wish to see Hogarth moralized to ennable me to decide on the eligibility of undertaking it. I have been debating about the world displayed [1] Winterbottom's history of America [2] the former in 8 the latter in four Volumes. Will you delay an answer to the letters of M C.

Jan. 13 [*1797*]

. . . I will not wish you the heart ache or distress you so wantonly inflict on me. But since I cannot extract any information from you by letter I wish to know when I could see you at Dumfries, Alexandria, or Baltimore, that I may make the inquiries viva voce which I have so often made in vain by writing. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 25.
DUMFRIES. Jan^y 14, [*17*]97

SIR, I am just return^d from my transalpine excursion, meditat^d in my last. The Guardian Angel of Tobit's son went with and brought me home tho not without many iminent perils by ice, sleet and swollen streams. I have got I suppose about 300 Dol. for you. Of which I send you 100 pr. post. Shoud have written before but was out of the tide

[1] *The World Displayed, or a Curious Collection of Voyages and Travels. Selected and compiled from the Writers of all Nations: by Stuart, Goldsmith, & Johnson.* First American Edition . . . In Eight Volumes. Philadelphia. Published by Dobelbower, Key and Simpson. 1796. NYPL. Vols. 6, 7 and 8 only seen. No. 7 contains *An Account of the Pelew Islands* . . . Capt. Henry Wilson, 1796, unabbreviated, unlike Weems' version. — In his letter of Nov. 11, 1796, Weems calls this work 'Doblebower's Collection.' — *Ad.* 'A delightful Little Work for Pious Children . . . William W. Woodward, . . . Worlds Displayed.' *Surprising Accounts of the Revival of Religion, in the United States of America*, William W. Woodward, Philadelphia, 1802, LC.

[2] *An Historical Geographical, Commercial, and Philosophical View of the American United States, and of the European Settlements in America and the West-Indies.* By W. Winterbotham. In Four Volumes. . . . New York, 1796 (first American edition), LC. Carey lists this same edition in his *Catalogue for 1818*, LC.

way of mails. Eat thy bread in quiet and drink thy wine with a merry heart, for thy welfare is safe as far as it is connect[d] with the Industry and honor of your MASON L. WEEMS

Shoud have written more largely, but find it painful from a fall, a dangerous fall into a river at whose bottom I found a flooring of Ice against which I spraind my thumb.

Shall keep up a fire on you till all my ammunition is expendd. Shall write by next mail to your Brother & Bailey

L. & F. Vol. 25.

GEO. TOWN. Jan[y]. 20, [17]97.

SIR, Inclos[d] I send you [*left blank.*]

Shoud have written by the last post, But being off the Stage road, to deposit books with an Adjutant, I cou'd not get to town in time for the mail — Don't be uneasy on the score of my Industry or honor. Had you but sent me Goldsmith in *time* and in *lieu* of so many miscellanious books, your coffers as well as my mind w[d] have been the better for it. 'Tis in your power thr'o the divine blessing to do great things in this country if you will but follow my prescriptions. I cou'd vend an infinite number of *fine sentimental moral Novels* — my heart w[d] concur in the work. During the nine weeks which you kept me here cruising off and on in sight of Alexandria, I might have sold a great many of the Miscellanious works sent here. However, Nil desperandum.

Bedinger has sold and pay[d] me for nearly *one third* of the books sent to him. I am going off now in the snow to see Geo. Lee who has sold a good many of *his* cargo. I think I can sell a great many of your late publication — The Spirit of Despotism.[1] If you coud get a copy of Smith's History of Virginia,[2] you w[d] do well to reprint it, I coud sell you many a thousand of that curious work.

NB, it sh[d] have one or two Romantic Engravings in it. Bishop Maddisson desir[d] me to reprint it. Many have express[d] a wish to have a copy of it. Don't trouble [*about*] Burkitt. As to the Life of Christ send

[1] *The Spirit of Despotism.* Vicesimus Knox. Philadelphia: Reprinted by Lang and Ustick, for selves and Mathew Carey. 1795. NYPL.

[2] Undoubtedly the well-known *Generall Historie of Virginia,* by Captain John Smith. I have never discovered that Carey did reprint this work.

me some subscription papers in the Spring with a proper *preamble* and I'll try what is to be done. Of the History of Women,[1] Cecilia [2] &c I hope to sell you many. You shall hear from me soon.

Adieu your

I shall go off presently to Richmond for to seek & to find the lost sheep, alluded to in M^r. Grammar's letter. Present my good wishes to y^r Brother, James, tell him that I have receiv^d his letter, read his propositions and am content to subscribe them, on condition that the books shall be shipp^d at his risque; the freight and trunks (at prime cost) payable by *me*. And that in case I dispose of one or two hundred copies of M^r. Paine's works for him he shall defray the trifling expence of a flashy Prospectus or Proposals which I have just sent to the press. Tell him he must have a handsome & interesting engraving to his edition of The Polite Lady.

Adieu your

I shall write to him by & by.

L. & F. Vol. 25.

GEO. TOWN, January 22, [17]97.

SIR By the last mail I sent you cent cinquante gourds (150).

By this I send you 100 D°. Thus in a week I have remitted you trois cent cinquante gourds, gather^d Dieu merci, amidst ice and snow in the fertile valleys between the Catoctan & North Mountains. Gather^d from the sale of Goldsmith. But alass the evil which I dreaded is come upon me, Goldsmith is nearly expended! There are a good many copies yet extant, but these I have hauled about the country and deposited in the hands of Adjutants who will account for them by & by. The subscribers are not yet supplied by a great many. Had you sent me 3 or 400 for my Winter's campaign, for my ambition, Poverty and many other enemies will never suffer me to retire into Winter quarters, I sh^d, deo benedicent, have done more for us both.

[1] *The History of Women, from the Earliest Antiquity, to the present time: giving an account of almost every interesting particular concerning that sex, among all nations. . . .* By William Alexander, M.D. . . . Philadelphia . . . Published by J. H. Dobelbower, 1796, AAS.

[2] *Cecilia, or Memoirs of an Heiress*, Frances Burney, New York, 1797, LCPHIL.

Experience has taught me that small, i. e. quarter of dollar books, on subjects calculated to *strike* the Popular Curiosity, printed in very large numbers and properly *distributed*, w^d^ prove an immense revenue to the prudent and industrious Undertakers. If you coud get the life of Gen^l^. Wayne, Putnam, Green [1] &c., Men whose courage and Abilities, whose patriotism and Exploits have won the love and admiration of the American people, printed in small volumes and with very interesting frontspieces, you w^d^, without doubt, sell an immense number of them. People here think nothing of giving 1/6 (their quarter of a dollar) for anything that pleases their fancy. Let us give them something worth their money. Your Brother James was telling me of a newspaper which he has thought of publishing. "Behold I shew him a mystery." M^r^. Brown [2] of Philad^a^ has thoughts of sending a paper to this State (so fame says) once a week containing nothing but NEWS. This coming cheap & conveying everything that the people here feel themselves interested in will find encouragement. But your Brother may do more here than Brown or others can.

But of this I will write more henceforth.

If you coud send by some polite passenger riding to Geo. Town, a copy of Glover's LEONIDAS,[3] address^d^ to D^r^. John Weems [4] my kins-

[1] This is the first hint of the lives of the worthies which, although he chose different subjects, Weems so enthusiastically began two years later.

[2] 'Brown, Andrew Editor and Proprietor of the Philadelphia Gazette and Universal Daily Advertiser, 29, Chestnut st.' *Philadelphia Directory, 1797*, LC.

[3] *Leonidas, A Poem*, By Richard Glover. From the Sixth London edition. Baltimore: Published by Neal, Wills & Cole. Benjamin Edes, printer, 1814, NYPL. The LC. has London, R. Dodsley, 1737 and Leipzig and Breslau, 1766 editions.

[4] The records of the Royal College of Surgeons and the Royal College of Physicians in the University of Edinburgh refer to a Maryland John Weems who studied there for three sessions, and received the degree of M.D. in 1792. — 'The partnership of Weems and Gantt, is this day dissolved, by mutual consent. All claims against the firm of Weems and Gantt, are requested to be sent for immediate settlement, to Doctor Weems, who has the books of the partnership, and is empowered to settle every account connected with it. John Weems, Edward Gantt. Georgetown. Jan. 9, 1799.' *Centinel of Liberty* (Georgetown, D. C.), Jan. 22, 1799, *et seq.*, LC. — 'For Sale or Rent. The House opposite the Bank of Columbia . . . lately occupied by John M. Gantt Esqr. adjoining Dr. Weems's . . . The terms . . . may be known on application to Doctor Weems . . .' *Ibid.*, Jan. 25, 1799, NYPL. — 'Dr. Robert French respectfully informs the public that he has commenced the practice of Physic and Surgery in Georgetown and its vicinity. He keeps his shop in the House lately occupied by Dr. John Weems, deceased.' *National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), May 31, 1809, LC.

man, Geo. Town, [*you*] may at a future day [*find*] your account in that good work. The sooner the better.

Now, write to me but at Dumfries. How many of Goldsmith in sheets &c. &c., have you?

L. & F. Vol. 25.

Dumfries Jan^{y}. 31 — [17]97.

Sir — The style of your last letter was so pathetically keen that it made a scratch on my pericardium, tho' cas^{d}. in well temper^{d} innocence. Superior to retaliation I hasten to answer your epistle and to develope my plan of past conduct. On my return from the Southward in October, I wrote on to you begging a supply of ammunition for our West[*ern*] Virginia uses, and for our Potomac Gentry. And in said requisition our Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond & Fredericksburg Patrons were not forgotten. The requisition amounted in toto to 450 cop. Goldsmith, 200 or 250 of Guthrie. All this was wanted *immediately*; I remember to have begg^{d} you to accelerate their progress on wings of swiftest canvass. Yes, That was the word. Had I not every reason to suppose that the equipment of such a squadron of books w^{d} have strain^{d} your every nerve and crowded every moment of the two short months that remained to the last year's navigation? And plac'd as I was in such a state of trembling anxiety to distribute the books and remit your monies, before too long delays had fretted the subscribers, or wintry rains and snows had render'd the roads, creeks and mountains inpassable, had I leisure to make any considerable progress in new subscription plans? Indeed, as matters turned out I had leisure sufficient to do a great deal in that way. For after all my importunities, I received but little more than a fourth part of the desired supplies and that not earlier than December. Had you but given me timely information that I was to receive so small a reinforcement and that at so late a period, I sh^{d} have posted off to some of the neighbouring large towns and fill^{d} up the interval with better stuff than painful expectation. But to return from this long digression or, more properly, peroration, I woud first observe that as to the Miscellaneous subscription papers, something has been done, *how much* I know not, but am afraid it is much less than we coud wish, owing to my inability

to give it a personal attendance. However, I feel a good hope that I shall be enabled in the course of this year to dispose of the greatest part of all the books belonging to that subscription paper. Nothing now stands in the way of my immediate commencement of that work but a trip which I have to make to Richmond to get & dispose of the books lately and so happily found, and another excursion, to Lancaster, Harrisburg, Carlisle &c. &c. As to Guthrie I hope to sell you between 500 & 1000 copies in the course of this year. My hopes are *well founded*. If you can get the *folio* edition of Burkit I cou'd sell 100 Copies for you. I have a good many subscribers for that work all of whom prefer the folio edition. What cou'd you get 100 copies for? Be pleas[d]. to ask Woodward.[1] I should have told you when talking about the Miscellaneous books that I can vend many more of the Novels than you probably possess. I entertain fears for none of them but Kaime,[2] Necker[3] & Hutchinson.[4] Don't engage any more of Edward's Relig. Affections.[5]

I wanted to know how many copies of Goldsmith you possess and when you will be ready to furnish me out for the West Pennsylvania expedition, i. e. Lancaster, Carlisle &c &c to the amount of 200 Copies. After having accomplish[d] these two Journies, to Richmond and to Lancaster I shall give directions to bind & send off the miscellanious pieces as occasion shall require.

How many remittances & to what amount has Mullen made you?

Yours, with good wishes

[1] 'Woodward William, printer, 33, Union St.' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1793, LC. Also listed, at '52 S Second,' in *Philadelphia Directory*, 1802, LC. Woodward printed for Weems, presumably early in 1802, *The True Patriot* (*Bibliography, title 173*). See also note to letter of Sept. 28, 1801.

[2] One of the following, by the famous Lord Kaimes: *Essays on . . . Morality & Natural Religion*, 1751; *Sketches of the History of Man*, 1779; *Introduction to the Art of Thinking with Maxims*, 1775; *Elements of Criticism*, 1778; *Hints on Education*, 1782; *Principles of Equity*, 1760; *Gentleman Farmer*, 1779, all in LCPHIL.

[3] *Of the Importance of Religious Opinions. Translated from the French of Mr.* [*Jacques*] *Necker. . . .* Philadelphia: from the press of Carey, Stewart & Co. M DCC XCI. LC. — Necker, at one time Minister of Finance under Louis XVI, was the father of Madame de Staël. His wife rejected Gibbon in a comic episode which has been made famous.

[4] *The History of Massachusetts, . . .* By Thomas Hutchinson, Esq. . . . Thomas and Andrews . . . Boston. 1795. LC.

[5] *Treatise concerning the Religious Affections*, by Jonathan Edwards, the famous New England divine and predestinarian. The NYPL. has an edition by Mathew Carey, Philadelphia, 1794.

[From Carey to T. Brundige]

L. & F.
Feb. 6 [*1797*]

. . . Your favour, of the 31st. ult. the only satisfactory letter I have recd. from you for two or three months lies before me.

I am rejoiced to find your prospects are so good with respect to Guthrie. But it is unfortunate you did not communicate the inteligence earlier; as I have for a considerable time past, stopped the reprinting of the deficient numbers of that work. I shall resume it again.

L. & F. Vol. 25.
Febv. 7 [*17*]97.

Sir. I forgot to tell you the sad end to which our Lottery Embrios came. Our petition for a lottery tho backd by the most potent aids of Dumfries & its vicinity did not succeed, and for this sole reason, it was not handed in before the *expiration* of the time appointed by the Legislature for the reception of petitions. Never mind, we'll see what's to be done next session.[1] In the meantime I'll mention one or two expedients to make up for that lee-way.

I find that I can sell, at least have good reason to think, that I can sell a *great* many of Guthrie &c. &c. &c. if I coud give credit of six months. Numbers of wealthy Planters & farmers here wd purchase largely on those terms, who cou'd not make a cash purchase for 10 dollars, tho perhaps worth a hundred thousand.

What orders do you give me? You'll be pleasd to observe that, my interest being at stake, I shall never sell in this way but to those by whom I have a *moral certainty* to be duly paid. Inclosd I send you 40 dollars. I want your opinion on another subject of great magnitude. I am very nearly persuaded that I can procure thro the states a very generous subscription for Hogarth's fine moral paintings. Say 30 to 40 plates, large, i. e. 12 x 15 Inches, and 20 guineas or 100 Dollars pr subscription. I have a notion that 2000 subscriptions may be procurd. I wd have you think *seriously* of this matter.

I don't like the binding of the last cargo of Guthrie. I wd you coud have them bound in the manner of Campbell's Hume. The People here

[1] Rejected Dec. 21, 1797. The petition is given in full under date of Dec. 16, 1797.

are much taken by neat, showy bindings. The absence of keys, or the presence of those not belonging to the trunks, has caused me much trouble, pri'thee strive to remedy that great evil for the time to come.

The Looker on [1] sells well. The books which you have purchas[d] on the new subscription plan amount not in all perhaps to more than 20 *different* kinds, these, assaulted by subscriptions, handsome advertisements and considerable diffusion, will, I trust, hardly outlive the present year. You said something about the World display[d]. Have you done anything in that affair?

I quit to write again shortly.

I want Goldsmith at Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Richmond, Norfolk, Petersburg, &[c]. But our subscribers at Carlisle, York, Harrisburg &[c]. &[c]. must be furnished first. I go to the south ward on *Monday fortnight.* After my return I shall set out for Carlisle to meet your Cargo of Goldsmith. I ought to have at Lancaster 60 copies, at Harrisburg 50, and at Carlisle 50, at little York 40.

Adieu

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Feb. 15 [*1797.*]

. . . I regret extremely the Failure of the Lottery plan. It would have been of great public & private service. However another attempt better timed will probably succeed. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 25.
Dumfries Feb. 21, [*17*]97.

Sir, Your favors of the 6[th] & 15[th], are before me. I shall endeavor to touch, perhaps in the flying fish way, on the summits of their various undulations. As to Anderson's embassy,[2] if it deserve, as no doubt it does, the title you give it, "A *curious work*," I can sell them abundantly

[1] 'Looker-on, a periodical paper, by the Rev. Simon Olive Branch, A.M. [*M. Carey?*] 2 vols., $2 50 Philad. 1796' *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 1031, LC.

[2] *Narrative of the British Embassy to China, in the Years 1792, 1793 and 1794; . . .* By Aeneas Anderson, . . . Dublin: 1795. LC. A New York, 1795 edition is listed in *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, LC.

ALL HALLOWS CHURCH, SOUTH RIVER, MARYLAND, IN 1884
After a wash drawing by M. Louisa Stuart

fast without the trouble of going round Robin Hood's barn with a Cap in hand subscription. As to the Rambler, Johnson's name will be sufficient passport for that. Send them hither and I am pretty confident they will soon ramble out of our way. I am sorry you have so few copies of Goldsmith; I coud vend 500 copies more pretty speedily. I very much want 100 copies at Alexandria & 25 at Fredericksburg & an equal number at Norfolk, I suppose that nothing less than 200 copies will serve our numerous subscribers at Lancaster, Carlisle, Harrisburg, &c. &c. However, with respect to these last, I will say more to you in about a month from this date. The roads are now extremely deep in this country, to that circumstance and to a visit which I have been making to a Brother just returned rich from Europe [1] I owe it that I have done but little for a week past. To-day I set off on a little trip to Maryland, after which I shall immediately, Deo volente, proceed to Richmond, Petersburg, Williamsburg &c, &c, to receive a good deal of money for you. As to the "World display[d]" Tis likely I can procure a great many subscribers for it, especially if it be accompanied with lively PROPOSALS, a handsome Specimen and Elegant Engravings. But w[d] heaven you had leisure, or cou'd get some ingenious Friend to run over the work and amputate all the excrecences whether of *Dullness*, despotism or immorality. I have heard it spoken rather disrespectfully of, here at Alexand[a]. where a few copies were sold last autumn, on account of its dullness. It contains, said the Plaintiff, rather too many "*old*, *tedious*, uninteresting matters." Now you know that as neither of us are old yet, and may, if you *play* your cards well, do a *great deal together* in the printing way it becomes our mutual interest, as I am confident, tis our mutual wish to print none but such books as may afford a sincere and lasting satisfaction to our Patrons. I well know that it is not enough to either of us, that Gentlemen impell[d] by curiosity and high expectation, readily subscribe and honorably pay for our books, we w[d] above all things, that they sh[d], after *perusal*, pronounce them Masterpieces of the *Utile & Dulce*, and ever after regard us as men of Taste and Honor. Well cast an eye over the "*World Display[d]*" and draw your strokes accordingly. As to Burkit my subscribers here give as I told you, a decided preference to the Folio form. Nor do I know what abatement w[d] reconcile them to what their

[1] Probably one of his elder ship-owning brothers, David or William.

Rustic humour might call a-bobtail[d] quarto. However if you think proper to *deliver* them at Alexandria at five dollars & a half, I dare say I can soon convert them into good orthodox silver for you. You may send 30 copies. . . .

On coming up to the interview I will god willing have a *copy* of my *own entries* of these and other matters to give you. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 25.
BALT°. Feb. 28 [17]97.

SIR — I wrote to you the other day by a private conveyance informing that I had no doubt of doing great & good things for us both in the old way of bookselling.

But perhaps it were advisable not to send me any more books to Virginia untill I come up to the interview. In one hour I set off to Virginia. On Monday (Deo Volent) I shall proceed to Richmond, Norfolk, &c. to finish the Goldsmith business. I shall return as soon as possible and proceed Via Carlisle, Little York, Lancaster &c. &c. At each of these places I shall expect to meet a quantum sufficit of Goldsmith, but more of that anon. I hope to see you very soon after my return from James River.

The Rev[d]. M[r]. Hagerty of this Town has just printed a neat edition of a French Prayer Book [1] of which he desires me to tell you he is willing to exchange a few copies. His retail price is 5/7½. It is in a neat *eighteen* 435 pages & contains the Prayers, Catechism, &c. &c. perhaps you coud sell it at Philad[a].

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.
PHILAD[a]. March 2, 1797.

. . . I am not without hopes, that this will find you at Dumfries; and as I wish to prevent your journey to Richmond, & any other journey for me as long as you live. I wish no further dealings with a man, who while he can cant for hours about morals & religeon is as insatiable & griping as the harpy Shylock. . . .

[1] I have never been able to locate a copy of this prayer book, nor is it mentioned in Wright's *Early Prayer Books of America.*

L. & F. Vol. 25.

RICHMOND. March 10. [17]97

SIR Inclosed I send you 100 Dol.

I hope to be coming on ere long to our interview. Send me no more books till *I* do myself the honor of writing for them

L. & F. Vol. 25.

PETERSBURG 22 March [17]97

SIR — Twelve days ago I sent you 100 Dollars — five days ago I gave M^r. Grammar for you 100 dollars more and now I give him 100 in toto 300 — The fountain is not yet dry. Be pleas^d to hold yourself in readiness to send at a days warning a supply of 200 Copies Goldsmith to Lancaster Carlisle, little York &. &. At Richmond I found five trunks and one Monstrous box. Out of the box and the larger trunk No. 51 sent last autumn by Green via Norfolk, and for store purposes, I made out a little assortment which I have deposited with a M^r. Sm^l. Pleasant [1] Printer Richmond. Pleasant is a young man of but little property but rich in reputation and in the esteem of [*and*] good word of all his numerous acquaintance. He says that if you chuse to make him out a *handsome assortment* of books, stationary &^c. &^c. he will advertise in his paper and strive to divide with Pritchard & Co.[2] [*the*] book business of Richmond & its vast Environs. A great deal I think may be done in Rich their Canal is completed and an immense back country is now laid open for commerce. You won't pay any regard to what I advise you with respect to the complection of the books to be sent to Virginia. Of fine Sentimental Novels, entertaining histories &^c. &^c. I coud vend a vast many. However, I shall say more if I live to see you at our Conference. I am now going to Williamsburg. I was there the other day and got 100 Dol. for you. I have interested the good old Bishop Maddison in your business. If we play our

[1] Samuel Pleasants, Richmond, edited there the *Virginia Gazette*, 1793–1795, and the *Virginia Argus*, 1796 to 1814, the year of his death.

[2] 'To the public on Wednesday the first of April next, will commence the sale of William Prichard's Whole Stock in Trade; consisting of a very large collection of Books . . . etc. . . . Richmond, March 20, 1807.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Mar. 24, 1807, AAS.

cards right he will sell for us to the Colledge of W^m^. & Mary 500 or 600 Dol. worth of books every year.

Had you not hamper^d^ me these last 200 Dol, w^d^ now be half way on their voyage to you.

Adieu, Believe me,
industriously & honorably

If you step to the Indian Queen & by M^r^. Bertram Ewell lodging there send me some more subscription papers for Guthrie & Goldsmith it will be well.

L. & F. Vol. 25.

DUMFRIES April 2 [17]97.

SIR — In the course of the three last weeks I have sent in part & partly paid to your Treasurer, Gramar, 300 Dol. I have a good deal more but it is in coin, not, p^r^ Post, transferable. I now send 150 Dol. 60 of which I beg you to accept, and 90 of which I conjure you to give to James Wilson, Bookseller, Wilmington. NB. I have long ow^d^. it, he is pleas^d^ to charge me interest, and what is more than all I promised to let him *have it* about this time.

Not well knowing the Gentleman I thought it best to throw it in this sure track of getting to him. You will adopt some sure inexpensive way of sending it to him and desire him to send you all the pretty little school books he has belonging to me.

You shall get a remittance from me presently.

Adieu.

L. & F. Vol. 25.

RICHMOND. April 27, [17]97.

SIR, I was paying out my little hawser of money to you about the time you gave me a broad hint that you expected *large monies* from me at our *interview*. I then instantly clapp^d^ a paul upon my cable and snub^d^ all standing, because I knew I cou'd not *both send* and *bring large monies*. I hope to shew *handsomely* at our tête-a-tête. If you had rather have the golden eggs in embryo, let me know by letter to Dumfries. I mean, however, to be with you in all May. M^r^. Pollard has p^d^ me

100 Dol. on acc[t] of Guthrie, I have put a number of copies out among our Aids. 14 Atlasses are wanting here by M[r]. Pollard.

Every person flatters me with great things if we sh[d] undertake Hogarth. I hope we shall make a good coup de main in the Lottery affairs this Autumn.

I set off in one hour to Rappahanock, and well laden with books for Subscribers. Let me know in 12 days and at Dumfries, what number of Goldsmiths you have sent to Lancaster, Carlisle, little York &[c]. and to what Gentlemen.

Adieu — your's

You have not forgotten my request to you about Wilson.

L. & F. Vol. 25.

FREDERICKSBURG May 5 [17]97.

SIR. . . . [*A list follows*] The above books are for the only son of M[r]. Waring,[1] on this River (Rappahanock) a Gentleman eminent for his wealth & punctuality. Ergo the sooner you send them the better. As to Insurance &[c]. that is all left to yourself, as I have to look for nothing more than my 5 pr. cent, as in omnil. casil.

NB M[r]. Lewis[2] with whom young Waring is reading law, *may be, and has promised to be*, of great service to us — ergo use him with your wonted attention & politeness and oblige, both him & your friend,

Your bag in my hands is in the snow-ball way — gathering. I set out on Tuesday in Whitsun-Week to see you. Tell Bailey I am coming — tell your Brother I have got subscribers for Paine.

Having shipp[d] the books write a line of Contents to M[r]. Lewis I

1 'Virginia Legislature. . . . List of the County and Borough Committees for the ensuing election of Electors — (appointed by the Members of the Virginia Legislature, on the night of the 14th inst.) . . . Essex [*County*] — . . . Robert P. Waring . . .' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Feb. 24, 1812, AAS. [Essex County is bounded on the N.E by the Rappahannock. *Lippincott's Gazetteer*, AAS.]

2 'The school of John Lewis, famous in its time [*the subject of this book was born in 1806 and studied there*], was called "Llangollen" and was near the North Anna River, not far from Lewis's Store, Spotsylvania County. . . . Mr. Lewis had been a Lawyer and had Law students. . . . His wife was a sister of Judge Peter Vivian Daniel.' *A Brief Sketch of the Life of William Green, LL.D., Jurist and Scholar*, Philip Slaughter, D.D., Richmond, 1883, p. 14, *f.n.*, LC.

sent on the other day from Alexand[a]. a large trunk of the Death of Abel [1] in sheets. You'll take good care of them as also of the two trunks of Blair I sent you last *summer*.

L. & F. Vol. 25.

DUMFRIES. May 15, [*1797*].

SIR Three days ago I receiv[d] your orders to *pay out* &[c]. I obey. I sent you a trunk of Death of Abel in Sheets. Secure them as soon as they heave in sight. You have no doubt taken good care of the two trunks of Blairs Sermon sent you from Baltimore last Summer. I shall (Deo Volen) set out to see you on the Monday after *Whitsuntide*. I mean to call at little York, Carlisle, Harrisburg, Lancaster, &[c]. I hope you have put things in such good order there as to enable me to swell the current of my supplies to you in Philad[a]. Be so good as to tell Bailey & Conrad that I am coming. You have not forgotten my remittance to Wilson.

I shall continue to remit every week. I have many things to communicate at our interview best wishes to M[rs]. Carey, &c.,

Adieu

L. & F. Vol. 25.

DUMFRIES. May 21 [*1797*].

SIR Inclos[d] I send you 90 Dollars. I shall send every week or ten days having the wherewithal. I shall set out on the first Monday after Whitsuntide.

I sent you 100 Dollars last week.

The Spectacle de la Nature [2] & abrégé des Sciences [3] & Telemaque [4]

[1] *The Death of Abel in Five Books. Attempted from the German of Mr. Gessner.* By Mary Collyer, New-York: . . . S. Campbell . . . 1764 [*1794?*] (*Bibliography, title 241*).

[2] *Spectacle de la Nature: or Nature Display'd* . . . London, M DCC XL VIII, 7 vols., 1740–1748. LC. — Recommended by L. H. Girardin [see note 1, page 199, letter of Sept. 2, 1801] in the *Virginia Express* (Fredericksburg), Nov. 17, 1803, AAS.

[3] *Abrégé de toutes les Sciences, ou Encyclopédie des Enfans.* . . . A la Haye Chez Les Frères van Cleef Libraires du Roi et de la Bibliothèque Royale. 1808. HSP.

[4] *The Adventures of Telemachus, the Son of Ulysses* . . . Fenelon . . . Hawkesworth . . . G. Gregory, D.D. Reviewed in *American Monthly Review*, December, 1795, Vol. 3, p. 367, LC. — *Les aventures de Telemaque fils d'Ulysse.* Par Messire François de Salignac de la Mothe Fenelon . . . The LC. has London, 1773 and Paris [*1796*] editions. — 'Tele-

Eng. & French are *much much Wanted* as also Youngs latin Dictionary[1] it were well to put them for Dumfries as soon as possible. They are for Gentlemen who may greatly help us. Adieu

Good Wishes to Mrs. C.

L. & F. Vol. 25.

DUMFRIES June 4th. [17]97.

DEAR SIR — I have, as usual, been out rallying around your standard, as many dollars as I cou'd inveigle into the service. This is Sunday. Tomorrow week I set out to see you. This moment I have got out of an Indian Sweat of a fright. I thought I had *lost* a Post note of 100 Dollˢ. But happily it was found in my wife's fob. You have it and that's enough for you and

Your

Whenever I don't answer your favors you may conclude that I am pushing about for l'argent. Repetitions therefore, become needless. As to other books I think it were better to let that matter lie over till our interview.

Adieu. Best wishes to Mrs. C.

[To MRS. MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 26.

July 13, [17]97.

DEAR MADAM, I am now, thank god, getting in blast again and hope to make you unfailingly a remittance every week. I shall be infinitely obligᵈ to you to send over *instantly* for Freind James Carey and inform him from me that if he has not already packᵈ and shippᵈ off Paines Works, he will oblige *me* and benefit *himself* by waiting a few days untill he can send such copies only as contain Paine and Watson, with omission of the "Age of Reason" entirely.[2] This latter work shᵈ be sent if *stitch*ᵈ

machus, Adventures of, French and English, 2 vols. . . . Boston.' *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . .* Jan. 1804, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[1] *A new Latin-English dictionary . . . to which is prefixed, a new English dictionary . . .* By the Rev. Mr. William Young . . . London . . . 1778. CL.

[2] Actually this edition contained sometimes one, and sometimes the other.

only. I think I can sell him several *hundred copies* of the Work cook[d] up in this way. As numbers of excellent Characters in this Country wish to have Paines political works, but feel a dread at the idea of throwing his Theological tracts in the way of their *Children*. I sh[d] have mention[d] this at our last interview but being in company with Matthew Carey Esq[r] I had no faculty but for chat and laughter.

The good Widow Carey will be pleas[d] to take care of my books (Blair & Death of Abel) in her custody, as in case of my sudden exit, she may have occasion for them. A letter was written to me, suppos[d]. in Philad[a]. by a M[r] Thornton, containing an order on M[r]. Baine[1] the Type Founder for some money, you will greatly oblige me by taking it up, presenting the order, and receiving the money for D[r]. Madam

Your Friend

Tell Citizen James that the People here are very fond of a *handsome* binding. I wish he c[d] have them bound like Campbells Edition of Hume.

Adieu.

L. & F. Vol. 26.

DUMFRIES. July 17, [17]97.

MADAM, Last week I sent you 40 dollars, I now send you 50. I never wish to *disappoint*. But lest any thing wearing that complexion sh[d] occur to your imagination, be so good as to remember that the prospects of large remittances cannot *now* as *last* summer be expected. Then I had an host of subscribers to furnish me with money. Now I have but a few straggling skulking sparks that have hitherto neglected to pay. I shall go on to collect and to remit. And according to M[r]. Careys orders to me, I shall deposite in the hands by him nominated, such books (miscellaneous) as I cannot sell. I hope that by Christmas I shall not owe him a book nor a dollar in the world.

He desir[d] me to let him know the names of the Gentlemen who had *engagd* to stand securities for M[r]. Mullen of Fredericksburg. Those Gentlemen are Mess[rs]. Smith & Wright, respectable Merch[ts]. of Fredericksburg. I set out tomorrow for the south country. Adieu.

Your Friend

[1] 'Baine John, type founder, 38, Pine St.' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1793, LC.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 26.
Geo. Town. Aug. 4th [17]97.

Sir, Inclos[d]. I send you 50 Dollars.

I have a good many subscribers for Guthrie. Magruder here has a good number (7), more than he will sell in a short time — However it matters not — you will send me quantum sufficit in temp brevi — A la bonheur I am getting under way a large edition and a handsome one too, of D[r]. Franklins Almanac,[1] I call it D[r]. Franklins because it will be enrich[d] with his famous *Way to Wealth* &[*c*]. As a good Patriot, I suppose you will give the undertaking the right hand of fellowship. You may have any number you please in exchange for such little chap books & Pamphlets as I shall approve. Tho considerably larger than the common Almanac it shall be put at the usual Philad[a] price 3/9 per doz. In this low ebb of Money, occasion[d] by the bad steering of our *brave* political pilots, nothing can keep afloat but Almanacs & such little skiffs. Sho[d] this be the case much longer, I mean to have the whole Ocean cover[d] with Almanacs next season. There shall be the Lover's Almanac,[2] the *Devils Almanac*,[3] and I don't know what else.

Adieu. Yours

L. & F. Vol. 26.
Dumfries. Aug. 11 [17]97.

Sir . . . I shall thank you more cordially than you can conceive, if you will, the very moment after perusing this, write to Wilson Bookbinder Wilmington for 700 of my little books entitled 12 cents worth of wit. I find it very saleable here at 1/4½. I wish you to get into your hands as much of my little property as possible for fear of accidents. If you

[1] I have never found that Weems issued this almanac on his own. He may, however, have had a joint interest, for a time, in *Carey's Franklin Almanac*, which ran from 1801 to 1814, and which contained (1803 and 1805 only) extracts from some of his own writings, notably *Hymen's Recruiting Sergeant*. (See *Bibliography, titles 174, 175.*) — In 1796 he had issued *The Immortal Mentor*, in which compilation he included Franklin's *Way to Wealth*. (See *Bibliography, title 220.*)

[2] Judging by subsequent letters, Weems did actually issue some thousands of copies of *The Lover's Almanac* (*Bibliography, title 155*), but I have not been able to discover one extant, unless it be *The Virginia* and its sister *Almanac* (*Bibliography, titles 172, 172 A*).

[3] No trace of this title has been found.

should see my Sam (freed Negro) be so good as to tell him I want to employ him.[1] I find that an Almanac may be render[d] a source of immense profit.

With compts. to M[rs]. C. adieu.

You have done well in [*opening a?*] store with Lithgow & Hunter, Dumfries. They will sell more for you than anybody else.

L. & F. Vol. 26.

GEO. TOWN, Aug. 23, [17]97.

SIR. Last week I sent you 43 Dollars I now send you 10! — I hope to do better shortly. I believe you to be a perfectly honest man, Signior Carey, but must still think that you have borne much harder upon me than upon the rest of your Book Factors. When we entered on business you promis[d] me the present premium on Goldsmith rating it at your original price 7 & 1/2 Dollars. When I started the price to 8 Dol. you did not as in generosity bound give me that half dol. nor yet the moiety of it, as the just reward of my generalship, but with sacraligious hands (for in robbing a worthy son you certainly rob the mother church) you took all that to yourself. Well, as sufferance is the badge of our tribe, I shrugg[d] up my shoulders and fell to work hoping that Heaven w[d] openly reward my patient merit. My expectations were fulfill[d]. I found favor in the eyes of every body, and my subscription paper was greatly increas[d]. You then cast an evil eye on my prosperity, and drawing an impassable line at the number 1200, you said, "hitherto shalt thou come and no farther and here shall thy subscriptions at 4 3/4 dol[s]. terminate." I did not think of this at the time I was so eager, and took such *delight* in making you large remittances from Virginia. Yes, Signior Carey, to enjoy that pleasure, I have made an entire sacrifice of nearly one half of all the Goldsmiths you sent me. I gave the fifth copy *gratis*, for a many hundred copies. Now for these last 227 copies I perceive you charge me 6 Dol. Thus I give 30 Dol. to you for the 5 cop. of which I give 1 for 4 and receive but 32 from my Subscribers. Out of these two dollars I have to pay 2 per cent insurance, *Freightage*,

[1] See *Appendix IX*.

Drayage, *postage*, and many other necessary expenses. I know you have been good to others whom you have thought oppress[d]. by a bargain.

Well, you have been hard on me in another respect. You furnish to Brundige, Grammar &c. *Complete Assortments* of books, and patiently wait for their remittances as fast as they receive monies. You have furnished me but a *very few* books, and some of these (religious) utterly unsaleable in Virginia, and yet think hard that I don't remit more and faster than I can get it. If I were conscious that I lagg[d] in the rear of my duty, I sh[d] not think hard that you sh[d] talk of not being "tonguetied," in exposing me, but as I am in the front of my duty, having paid you 14 or 1500 Dol. in advance on the acc[t]. of Goldsmith. For I really have now 25 or 2600 dol. due to me on acc[t]. of Goldsmith. As to the Mess[rs]. Adams, you will do me the *greatest* of favors, by writing to them that it is the wish of my heart to come to an *immediate* settlement with them, and that I will most gladly leave it to them to choose three Gentlemen, yourself one of the number, to hear our cause and to determine, and that I will instantaneously commence the payment of the debt. Do this *immediately* and you will oblige me more highly than I can possibly express. I have a great great wish that you sh[d] hear this matter stated in a *round unvarnish[d]* manner. As to your books I have agreeably to your request left one large trunk & box with Thomas [*at*] Alexand[a]. I shall leave the rest as order[d], And the ballance of the money I shall remit to you as fast as I can get it.

Wishing you well I remain yours,

L. & F. Vol. 26.

FREDERICKSBURG, Aug. 31, [*1797.*]

SIR — Last week I sent you 10 Dol. Again I send you 10 Dol. "By the continual dropping of water the Stones are worn away." I am on my way to Richmond &[c]. &[c]. to return your books to Grammar. As to the Mess[rs]. Adams, they have agreed to an amicable & honorable Settlement, and as *evidence* of it have acknowledg[d] the receipt of large monies (800 Dol.) paid formerly the written vouchers of which I had lost.

Your ob[t] Serv[t].

L. & F. Vol. 27.

Geo. Town. Sep. 13. [17]97.

Sir, Inclos[d] I send you [*left blank*]

Am pleas[d] with your *written orders* to return your books; agreeably to which I now transmit you a list of *some* left Sept. 2[d] with Sam[l]. Pleasant. Richmond.

13 Looker on.—
1 Hutchin. Massachusetts
34 White's Sermons —[1]
9 Neckar on Religion.
27 Edwards Affections.
8 Female policy detected.[2]
1 Play. Russian Slaves
9 History of Women
1 Presidents Message.[3]
1 Jeffersons Notes.
64 Price's Sermons [4]
38 Elements Morality [5]
25 Henrys Meditations
1 English Hermit [6]
8 Seneca's Morals [7]
5 Goldsmith complete
7 D[o] of odd Vol[s].
2 large boxes.

List of books left with I. V. Thomas, Alexand[a]. 5 Weeks ago

Tytler vers. Paine. 125 [8]
Apology Xianity 48 [8]
24 Lowth's Isaiah [9]
13 Neckar on Religion.

[1] This may be William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1787–1836 (though no such volume of sermons has been found by me), or, more likely, the famous English naturalist, White of Selborne.

[2] *Female Policy Detected: or The Arts of a designing Woman Laid Open. Treating of Their Allurements, Inconstancy, Love, Revenge, Pride and Ingratitude.* Printed and Sold at No. 42, Cornhill, Boston. M,DCC,LXXXVI. AAS.

[3] *A Message of the President of the United States, to Congress Relative to France and Great Britain:* . . . Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey . . . October 24, 1795. LC.

[4] *Sermons on the security and happiness of a virtuous course, etc.* . . . By Richard Price . . . Philadelphia . . . Thomas Dobson . . . 1788. LC.

[5] *Elements of Morality,* . . . Translated from the German of the Rev. C. G. Salzmann. . . . In Two Volumes. . . . Philadelphia: M.DCC.XCVI. LC.

[6] *The [English] Hermit:* . . . [*by Edward Dorrington* (pseudonym)] Printed at Exeter, by H. Ranlet for I. Thomas, and E. T. Andrews, . . . Boston, M,DCC,XCV. LC. The LC. also has an edition printed at The Apollo Press, in Boston, by Joseph Belknap. MDCCXCV.

[7] *Seneca's Morals,* . . . By Sir Roger L'Estrange, Knt. Boston: . . . 1794. LC.

[8] *Paine's Second Part of the Age of Reason Answered,* by James Tytler, Salem, 1796, LC. This and Bishop Watson's *Apology for Christianity* are only two of the many controversial writings directed against the liberal doctrines of Thomas Paine. (See *Bibliography, title 243.*)

[9] 'Lowth's Translation of the Book of Isaiah, 12 mo. Albany. 75 cts.' *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804,* in *Book-Trade*

30 Flavel's husband. spiritualiz[d].[1]
6 Edwards Affect. large
13 D°—D° small.
14 White's Sermons
251 Henrys Meditations.
19 Looker on
1 D° odd Vol. (2[d])
20 Tucker on Slavery (stitch[d])[2]
55 Tucker, half bound.
48 D° Bound.
4 Guthrie.
6 Atlass.
6 Maps U. States.
26 Watson vers. Paine.
1 Elements of Morality
1 — on Usury[3]
1 very large hair trunk
1 large box.

I shall go on to transmit your books and monies as fast as I can meet the one & the other. I am at this time a good deal afflicted with a head ach ergo shall write again as soon as I can.

I cou'd wish you were a little more patient. At the winding up of our matters you shall find me as I ought to be.

Your Ob.

L. & F. Vol. 27.

GEO. TOWN, Sep. 30 — [17]97.

SIR, This moment I paid D[r] Magruder fifty dollars for you, and took receipt.

I hope to Return you nearly 2,000 Dollars worth Miscellaneous books, and upwards of 13,00 Dollars worth of Goldsmith if it be agreable to you.

M[r]. Mullen, two weeks ago, shew[d] himself a Villain of the first size — The books which you left with him lock[d] & nail'd up, he put, *privily*, on board a boat bound for Norfolk, with the right *honorable* view no doubt of raising what money he coud on them by vendue. M[r]. Smith (of the house of Smith & Wright whom I mention[d] to you as his

Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[1] 'Flavel's (John) Husbandry Spiritualized, or the heavenly use of earthly things, 75 cents *Elizabethtown*, 1794' *Carey's Catalogue*, for 1818, LC.

[2] *A Dissertation on Slavery:* . . . By St. George Tucker . . . Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, . . . 1796. LC.

[3] *Defence of usury;* . . . by Jeremy Bentham . . . Dublin, D. Williams . . . 1788. LC. 'Bentham's (Jeremy) Defence of Usury, 18 mo. 75 cents Phil. 1796' *Carey's Catalogue* for 1818, LC.

securities) push[d] after him and reach[d] Norfolk one hour before M[r] Mullen from whom he took *all your books* and deposited them in care of M[r]. Proudfit & C[o].[1] where they wait for further orders. I had deposited with M[r]. Mullen some books these were all seiz[d] or attach[d] for house rent. *You*, felix tu will lose nothing, for a *man of the law* whom I consulted informs that for all the books unaccounted for by Mullen, they will be answerable, i.e. Smith & Wright.

I shall be very busy for 4 weeks to come and shall ever and anon make you remittances. Nil desperandum sub duce.

As to Mess[rs]. Adams I owe them money as I always told you but they charge me nearly 1.000 Dol. more than I owe them. Were it not better to stand a law suit? I have not (god is witness) a wish which I breathe with so much ardor as that [*for*] a *fair* and *speedy* settlement with them but I dont hold myself bound to *sacrifice* all my poor little gleanings in their service (a four years service!) —

I begg[d] you to act as one of the Arbitrators but you did not regard my petition. I ever thought a wish to refer to arbitration an evidence of innocence & uprightness. The Mess[s]. Adams will regret if they drive me to Law.

L. & F. Vol. 27.

DUMFRIES. Octob. 30, [*1797.*]

SIR. My time is short & few must be my words. I have money for you, of which I now send you some thro defect of proper paper *cant* send all — Last week saw me travelling up among your Book Venders, Martin tho one of the best men in the world is much a delinquent, but promises at my next visit to have money for you. D[r]. Tyler promis[d] to send you money by M[r]. Manks who goes this or the next week for Philad[a]. M[r]. Lee has sold you 200 Doll[rs]. worth of books, which he has several times promis[d] to let me have for you, but has as often failed. But I w[d] he ow[d] me a thousand dollars; for he is a good man, tho in these times of scarcity, he is slow in payment. Of Pleasants I never receiv[d] a copper for you. He told me he had paid you some money.

[1] *Ad.* '. . . Wines . . . Brock, Proudfit & Co., May 7, 1795.' *Virginia Herald & Fredericksburg Advertiser*, May 12, 1795, HU.

Prentis never paid me (but via Philad[a], *to yourself* 40 Dol.) a sous. He told me he had since paid you from 3 to 600 Dol.

Tucker has never had an application from me. Ergo I have receiv[d] nothing. You have seen all these Gentlemen. As to Mullen you have receiv[d] *in part*, and will I hope receive the *whole* of his sales. Your books as I told you before are *safe* at Proudfits & C[os]. Store Norfolk. Bedinger paid me 9 months ago 84 Dol[s]. of which one half was due on acc[t] of my *own books*. If you think proper to give me orders, I will [*go*] around to these Gentlemen and settle decisively with them and take away the books from them. I have lately left a great many books with Brundige as likewise a considerable addition to those left with I. V. Thomas, Alexand[a].

I can get French Crowns here for Dollars. Shall I buy up for you?

The plan which I have long pointed out to you w[d] I am positive make your fortune and be something worth while to me. A *full assortm[t] of school books*, little Histories interesting & curious, Voyages, travels, fine Novels, &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. these put up in trunks of middling size, and amounting to about 150 to 200 Dol. each assortment, and distributed in every large neighbourhood, throught the State. Mem. Deposited with none but such as are *exemplary* for punctuality, and who can give thee *good securities*. At every trip I coud take several of these little assortments, I coud take one of your propos[d] printed Catalogues with prices annex[d], and receive orders. I coud take Proposals for some popular book e. g. Rollins Ancient History or The Preceptor,[1] or, which I have the most satisfactory reasons to think w[d] make your fortune at once I mean in 3–4 years, Hogarth's fine Moral & Entertaining Prints. I have spoken to 5 Gentlemen who have all express[d] an eager wish to have them at 20 Guineas each subscriber. However more on this some other time.

I have many subscribers for Guthrie.

[1] *The American Preceptor*, a well known school book of the time.

L. & F. Vol. 27.

FALMOUTH NEAR FREDERICKSBG. Nov. 14. [17]97.

RIGHT REVd SIR. I am now at the house of a Mr. Wigginton[1] a Genteel young Mercht who offers to take a parcel of your books for which he will give good *Security*. I observd to you before that a full assortment of *School books*, Voyages, travels, Novels, histories, &c &c &c wd do well in this country. As to Religious books sent as you sent me before, you might as well send Fiddles to a Methodist conventicle — I am about to get out a lottery for the purpose of building a Church in Dumfries.[2] I have no great fear of success in my application to the General Assembly of this State. Half money half books will reward the 1st Lucky Adventurer, the rest will be paid in books to the amount of 9000 Dolls. I sent you a fortnight ago 20 Dol. I gave the like sum of 20 to Brundige. I now send you 15. I dont wish you to send on the above books if the idea be in the least disagreable to yourself. Yrs

TO THE HONBLE. THE SPEAKER AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES.

The petition of Mason L. Weems, humbly sheweth,

That the delay of the mail, and the great risques which often alarm and which sometimes have actually destroyed the lives and property of Travellers on the post road from Fredericksburg to Dumfries, for want of bridges over the deep and rapid runs of Potomak and Aquia,[3] are to be considered as great public evils; and that your petitioner having on hand a considerable quantity of the most valuable books, the circulation of which he concieves will greatly redound to the public benefit, is willing, with your gracious permission, to undertake a lottery for the disposal of books which he will furnish to the fortunate

[1] William Wigginton, postmaster, Falmouth, Va., July 1, 1794 (first return) — (with one interruption) 1820+ See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, p. 192. P.O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.— *Ad.* 'A Quantity of Fresh Orchard Grass Seed For sale by Wm. Wigginton, Falmouth, August 16, 1796.' *Virginia Herald & Fredericksburg Advertiser*, Aug. 19, 1796 *et seq.*, AAS.

[2] Weems used to preach in the Court House, or from its steps, as was the custom of the country where a church edifice was lacking.

[3] Aquia creek in Stafford County runs into the Potomac and has always had high freshets. See letter of May 17, 1808.

adventurers in said lottery, at the Philadelphia retail prices, and from the profits of which books thus vended, he will contribute one thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting over the aforesaid dangerous runs of Potowmak & Aquia, two strong and sufficient bridges, of season'd oak frames well tar^d. and secured from the inclemencies of the Weather. Your petitioner therefore humbly prayeth that an act may pass to authorize such a lottery and to appoint commissioners to raise by lottery the sum of one thousand dollars for the purpose of building the aforesaid bridges, and your petitioner will as in duty bound pray &^c. &^c. &^c. &^c.

MASON L. WEEMS.[1]

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 30.
December 28 — [17]97.

SIR. M^r. Brundige has this moment given me a receipt for 30 Dollars for you and likewise a receipt for a parcel of your books delivered to him.

I am very ready to agree that our connexion, properly manag^d, w^d prove a source of much wealth to us both. Witness my sales of your edition of Goldsmith. In the year 96 and on the 23^d of February I open'd my subscription for your Goldsmith, and by the 23 of October the same year I sh^d have put into *your pocket* the *large* monies for no fewer than 12,00 copies of that heavy Work, had not my attention (*most unfortunately for us both*) been diverted by books utterly unsaleable in this country. This you know to be fact. Allons. I think I coud do something of the same kind for Rollin.

As to your books &^c. &^c. we shall have a proper overhauling when I come to Philadelphia which will be in the spring. I shall visit Philadelphia then for the purpose of knocking of[f] the Immortal Mentor to my numerous Subscribers throughout Pennsylvania, New Jersey, &^c. &^c. &^c. Be pleas^d to tell the same to Bailey & Conrad.

Don't think me selfish, when I advise you (in lingua Shakespeariana) to Beware the conduct of the Base Indian who threw away a pearl worth half his tribe.

Wishing you health &^c I remain,
Your humble Serv^t.

[1] *Archives*, VSTL. Also entered in the *Journal of the House of Delegates*, Dec. 16, 1797, p. 32. Rejected Dec. 21, 1797, *ibid.*, p. 44.

He comes — the Herald of a noisy world,
News from all nations lumb'ring at his back.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. January 3, 1798.

Dear Sir, In the name of heaven what can you mean by this total silence since I left Dumfries? — Were all your splendid promises meant only to deceive me? Could I add any reasons in favour of exertions more urgent or imperious than those I so solemnly stated to you, of the imminent danger in which I stand? To you, alone, Sir, I am indebted for that danger: for the chief part of my incumberences, by heaven, arose from exchanges & purchases made with a view to supply you. Monday next I must pay 817 Dollars for Burkit, about which I wrote you repeatedly, previous to the purchase. And for the laws of the United States, there hangs over my head at this hour a note of above 1500 Dollars. Both these works I bought for you alone.

Let me once more invoke you to attend to the dictates of honour, justice, & gratitude — & make me a speedy & plentiful remittance. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 30.

Dumfries [*Jan.?*] 3[d] [*17*]98

. . . You can hardly be more unwilling to grant, than I am to solicit [*orders for*] impious books. But as M[r]. Dodson had obtain[d] subscriptions for those 12 cop. Guth. mention[d] in my last, and as I had pointed out the way (via M[r]. Gramar) of doing that affair very *safely & effectually*, I expected it w[d] have been agreeable, because as profitable. to yourself as to

M. L. Weems.

L. & F. Vol. 30.

Fredericksburg, Jan[y]. 25. [*17*]98.

Sir. Since my last remittance I have done nothing but pay a Columbian kind attention to my dame partlet[1] in the straw. I am now

[1] 'Partlet — The hen in Chaucer's "Nun's Priest's Tale", and in the tale of "Reynard the Fox" . . . so-called from the partlet or loose collar of "the doublet" — the feathers around

under way as usual to make collections. You shall get a remittance (Deo adjuvante) e'er long. As to your charge — "that I wont give you an interview" — Prithee Carey, no more of that. When you call'd at Dumfries, was it a fault of mine that I was out on business? To come on to Philadelphia at so inclement a Season when Buonaparte himself w'd cry for Winter quarters and when Mrs. Weems was in such a dangerous situation, w'd be too bad. As to not giving you a minute detail of your books, Let me observe what I observ'd before that as to Lee I have not receivd a stiver — From Tucker not a stiver — From Martin not a stiver — From Pleasants not a stiver — From Bedinger, about 70 or 80 Dollars, 12 or 15 months ago, of which a great part was due to me for books left with him long ago. You have seen Tucker & Pleasant, as to Lee, Martin & Bedinger I believe your money to be *most perfectly* safe, and after my return from this trip I shall call on them myself. Tho from the hint you gave me of a suspicion that I had receiv'd large monies from those Gentlemen, I do not recollect that I have ask'd them since, taking it for granted that you had applied to them by letters. As to your admonition with respect to Mr. Pleasant & the Guthries — take notice that I had left those Guthries with him to sell, finding that he made no sale of them, and Mr. John Hopkins a public character in Richmond having gotten me your 8 subscribers, I took them away for him. He has them now and will I hope pay me for them on this visit.

I am returning your unsold books as fast as one poor horse and sulkey can drag them in these short days and bad roads from those very distant places to which I had haul'd them. I left Brundige a parcel yesterday.

I wish you w'd give me orders to leave with Mr. Brundige & Grammar as many of my *own* books as will together with *yours* satisfy all your BOOK-demands. This I wish as a security to you in case of my death. I don't mean that this is to have any diminishing effect on my remittances. I beg'd you a thousand times to get my little books from Wilson. About 700 of the 12 cents worth of Wit a very saleable little thing. You may find it your interest to attend to this request.

the neck of certain hens. *Sister Partlet with her hooded head*, allegorizes the cloistered community of nuns in Dryden's "Hind and Panther" where the Roman Catholic clergy are likened to barnyard fowls.' *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, E. Cobham Brewer, LL.D., Philadelphia, LC.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. February 20, 1798.

In one of your letters dated June 3[d]. 1796, is contained the following idea — "Even tho' the Deity existed not in my distempered imagination, and my mind had lost all sense of the beauty & importance of moral virtue, yet woud I, as a man of this world, treat you with honour, because it would in fact be treating myself with kindness." This very correct view of the connexion between us, has long ceased to influence you. You have long bade adieu to the dictates of honour & of policy in your treatment of me. But these very powerful motives ought to have dictated to you a very different proceedure. You have done me incalculable injury. The Books I promised in exchange, & purchased, solely with a view to supply you, have considerably embarrassed me, by draining me of cash wanted for other purposes.

The most short-sighted view of your interest must evince the wretched impolicy of disgusting me, as you have done, with a project, with which, as I have stated a hundred times, you might have made a handsome fortune. By Guthrie's Geography alone you might have made more in twelve months, than you will clear in five years pedling with shabby almanacs & chap Books. And had Guthrie gone on as there was every reason to expect, I should have undertaken Rollins history, the preceptor, &[c]. &[c]. . . .

Your ob[t]. h[bl]. Serv[t].,

L. & F. Vol. 30.

Petersburg. Feb. 24. [17]98.

Sir — I have but a moment to inform you that after the most disagreable ride or rather series of successive crawlings & creepings in deepest roads, delay[d] by snows rains, and by high winds at wide rivers, I am arriv[d] at this place. M[r]. Grammar yesterday gave me a receipt for 50 dollars for you. I shall shortly make another remittance. I shall today leave a great many of *your* books with M[r]. G. according to your directions, and a good many of *mine*. I do not wish M[r]. Carey that you sh[d] lose a fraction of a cent by me. If I have been unfortunate in not vending your Puritannically religious books, add not to my misfortune the charge of inattention to your interests. As soon as good weather will allow I shall come up and see you, "face to face." I wrote to you desiring that you w[d] give me permission to deposit in the hands of your best venders

so many of my own books as may make you whole if I sh[d] slip my cable sooner than I wish. As I told you before I do not wish anything but the feast of an honest self approving mind. Your misconstruction of the phrase "Base Indian" which I us[d] as I am wont out of a piece of fun, has surpris[d] me. However, there is no harm done, Sign[r] Carey, I thank god, that under his benediction I can do without M[r]. Carey, and M[r]. C. can do without his

old Vassal

I hope to be at Dumfries in 10 or 12 days. However you shall receive a remittance before that.

L. & F. Vol. 30.

DUMFRIES. March 10. [17]98.

SIR

	Dol.
Fourteen days ago I sent you p[r] Grammar	50
Twelve days ago I sent you per D[o]	45
To day I paid Brundige for you	70
I now send you an order for	35
	Dol. 200

You are perpetually complaining. If you knew all, if you knew the globules of rich sweat I have lost, the tears of grief and vexation I have shed in consequence of your ill treatment of me, your oppressing and crushing me to the earth by ten thousand puritannical books which as a good Catholic you know I did not request you to send, nay, was eternally remonstrating against your sending, representing them to you as unsaleable in this State as Fiddles at a Conventicle. If you did but know the long melancholy and expensive journeys I made with these books, dragging them into every hole & corner of the state, depositing them with Merchants some of whom have sold none, others have not yet paid me, and others again have become insolvent. If you did but consider that all this was undergone not only without profit, but at much expence and "confusion worse confounded," with loss of that TIME which if properly exerted on Goldsmith & Guthrie, w[d] have made me a consummately happy man, I.E. a *Man out of debt.* If in addition

to all this you did but consider how cruelly you have hamstrung, barbarously divided the Tendo Achillis of my exertions, "by changing twice, my wages for Goldsmith and showing so palpable so mountain gross a partiality & preference to your other Book-vending Friends here in Virginia, giv^{g} them the pick & choice of fine Novels, entertaining histories, curiosity stirring voyages & travels, and sending me scarcely anything but Sable colour^{d} Divinity, and because I cou^{d} not sell these, you must harrow up my feelings with the sharp pin of bitter invective, sometimes charging me with having brought you to the crumbling brink of ruin, and at other times (tho not more painfully) giving me a broad hint of deficient honesty. M^{r}. Carey I want nothing by way of refreshing my memory on the score of Industry & honesty. Had I of each ten times as much as my present stock I cou^{d} do but little for you or myself with such books as you have in general sent me.

I have left with Grammar & Pleasants a great many books for you among these nearly 50 copies of Goldsmith for one article. The subjoin^{d} order is on a M^{r}. Dodson a man of fortune living in Petersburg and in that large white house which you may remember to have seen near Grammar's NB. He is an intimate acquaintance of Grammar's. He happen^{d} not to have the money when I call^{d} but said he w^{d} pay to an order on him. This M^{r}. Dodson p^{d} me at *once* 256 Dollars for Goldsmith. I gave him a subscription paper for Guthrie on which he has got 10 subscribers, you can send the books with Atlasses &^{c} to Grammar, desiring him to let Dodson have them as he (Gramar) shall think proper, and get & send you on the monies immediately. They are to have great races at Petersburg sometime in next month, if you coud send on the book *instantly*, M^{r}. Dodson said he sh^{d} have a fine chance to dispose of the books at that public time. My friend M^{r}. Rob. Pollard, Richmond, paid me t'other day 50 dollars for Guthries sold, he has still on hand 14 copies, sans atlasses. He advis^{d} me that He c^{d} have sold off nearly the whole had he but had the Atlasses. I mention^{d} this to you long ago. For goodness sake send them on to Pleasant, for him.

There is a man going about in Richmond, Evans by name, who is offering your Goldsmith (at 8 Dol) to the Merch^{ts}. in exchange for Hats, Shoes &c. &c. at their retail prices. He says that he is a partner of yours, you can tell whether this Manuve will have any good effect on your

subscriptioneering in future. I consider it as a great misfortune that a man of my industry & spirits sh[d] have no better materials to work with than Almanacs. But I'll work on them rather than not work at all, Perhaps God may throw some good business in my way by & by, and enable me to maintain certain pensioners which I have contracted by chusing "to marry rather than do worse."

I thought I sh[d] do well with you, and heaven can Witness the satisfaction I took in sending large monies to you, but by loading me with such *unfortunate* books & writing such bitter letters, you have made me scratch my head oftener than I ever expected. And in many instances you have shew[d] such an unwillingness to do me the smallest favors that I have been much dishearten[d].

I begg[d] you to receive my little books from Wilson, a request of so small a size that I w[d] have done it for a Cudjo or any the poorest slave on earth, you w[d] not do it for me. I begg[d] you to act as Umpire between Adams & myself, you w[d] not, but credited their calumnies against me, tho Sam[l] Adams was down here and bro[t] claims against me, for 800 Dollars which I paid him before, and produced his own receipts. All the favor I now ask of you is that you w[d] be so good as to walk down to M[r]. Rob. Campbell [1] and beg him not to sell my books at public vendue unless he be really oblig[d] so to do. I shall not fail to pay *him & shortly*. I shall make you another remittance shortly, and shall set out to settle matters with Martin, Lee & Bedinger. M. L. W.

I wrote to Campbell desiring him to allow me to pay his monies to Brundige, your steward. Be pleas[d] to mention that to him. If you treat me well Matthew Carey I may yet be better to you than a square rigg[d] vessel. I wish you w[d] allow me to deposit in the hands of your agents here some of my books.

L. & F. Vol. 30.

DUMFRIES, May 11, [17]98.

SIR. . . . Have you gotten my little books (12 cents of wit) from M[r]. Wilson? Next week I hope to supply M[r]. or rather Dr. M[c]Gruder with a little of the sine qua non, for you, as also a good many of your

[1] I have not been able to ascertain the cause of this controversy with Campbell.

books. For nearly three weeks past I have done but little except to visit & pay a large compliment of congratulation to an almost only Brother,[1] who has just receiv[d] orders, by decree in chancery, to draw on London & Providence for 31,000 Dollars.

I shall come up shortly after the approaching holy days.

L. & F. Vol. 30.

DUMFRIES. May 23[d]. [17]98.

SIR: . . . As soon as possible after Whitsuntide I shall be up; and shall not fail in the interim to collect both monies & books for you.

If you think proper to set me about getting subscriptions for Rollin's Ancient History, and will strike off about 100 copies of some one or other of the most enchanting stories in that excellent work, e. g. the life of Cyrus (in the 2[d] Vol. Duod[o].) with an handsome engraving or two, I think I can get you from 500 to 1,000 cop engag[d]. Brundige is of opinion that it w[d] be 400 pr Cent more saleable than some other large books now contemplated in Philad[a]. to be printed. As in the most fertile tracts of land, there are some *sterilities*, so in Writers the most fertile of Genius and literary merit, some luckless exceptions, such as, tautologies, puerilities, verbosities and garrulities will creep in, and give them such gigantic dimensions as to frighten an host of Juvenile & timid readers. Such superfluities are to be found in the excellent Rollin. They sh[d] be purg[d] off. The great D[r]. Bennett wishes they were purg[d] off. Bid me then Citizen Director, to undertake this work & allow me the double honor of doing something handsome for our two families and of — "deserving well of the Republic." I cou[d] wish to draw up the subscription paper to my own taste. I sh[d] print it as an edition of — "Rollin Improved."

I am in arrears to M[r]. Conrad the book binder, I wish you coud let him know that I shall be up in 6 or 8 weeks, and shall in the interim make him some remittance.

Be pleas[d] not to overlook this request.

[1] Meaning of those which had survived. (See *Appendix V.*)

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad[a]. June 1, 1798.

Dear Sir, In the present state of things, I would not undertake Rollin, on any acc[t]. Perhaps, when the present storm blow[s] over, I may try it.

Meanwhile, Guthrie holds out every inducement to industry that can be desired — and that I offer to your co-operation. I can furnish them as fast as you can procure Subscribers. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 30.

Dumfries Monday 11. [17]98. June

. . . Am sorry you can't undertake Rollin.

If you coud in the same *trunk* (for it must be a *trunk, no box, no box,*[)] send me 10 or 12 copies of Paines works (his *infidelity* excepted) with Watson's reply if *convenient*, I can quickly turn them into money for you. There is an infinite demand among the numerous Storekeepers of my acquaintance for *Spelling books*. If you can send me 20 doz. of them, a few weeks perhaps may shew that a good deal of money may come to you from that article. I know that you cannot on spelling books allow any great profit to me, but a small profit on an article of extensive sale may amount to something considerable.

Adieu

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad[a]. June 15, 1798.

. . . Is it not absurd to bind up Watson's Apology, without the Age of reason? . . .

[To Timothy Brundige] *L. & F. Vol. 30.*

[N.d. follows June 11, 1798.]

D[r]. Sir: As you are in the habit of writing every monday morning to M[r]. Carey, I shall thank you to inform that Gentleman, by way of posscript to your tomorrows letter, that I have been laid up a fortnight by a violent inflamation of the ear occasion[d] by exposure to in-

clement weather. But that tomorrow, God willing, I shall recommence my carieer, and that he shall shortly receive a remittance from

D^r. Sir

Yours

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 30.

Dumfries. June 25, [*1798*].

This moment shall pay Brundige 40 Dol. for you.

If any one gentleman of my acquaintance stands a fairer chance than another for Purgatory, it is Mathew Carey Esq^r. Thirteen shillings & odd money pr. doz. for spelling books!! Well let me have them here at Dumfries at that price and I'll take 20 Doz. as an experiment. Perhaps we may both find it more profitable than we now suspect. M^r. Rob. Pollard, Richmond, has lately secur^d by subscription the sale of the Guthries (14 or 15) still in his possession. He only wants, as I have told you in 50 letters, [*a*] correspondent number of Atlesses & maps [*of the*] U. States to enable him to turn them into cash for you. Why will you continue to add to the multitude of my transgressions?

You may send on the 12 cop Paines Works with Watson, with or without his diestical lobscourse as may seem good in your own eyes.

I shall esteem it a great favor if you will overhaul the list of the books you sent Mullen and compare it with the list of what were *return^d*. You will find several books that were not sent by yourself to that dishonest young man, and which he got from me out of the trunk you sent to Fredericksb^g to me for store purposes.

Adieu,

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad^a. June 29, 1798.

. . . Remember, you owe me very great exertions. For you I purchased the laws — Burket — the Life of Christ — Andersons Embassy, &^c. — and for you I reprinted Guthrie. These things have drained from me immense sums.

I remain, Sir, . . .

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Dumfries. July 13, [17]98.

. . . In my attentions to *your business*, which, had it not been for that *unlucky* glut of unfashionable divinity, I sh[d] (Deo benedicent.) have made highly productive to us both, I have in great measure neglected my own. I have now in the hands of Citizen Bailey 2 or 3 and twenty hundred copies of the Immortal Mentor, a book very saleable.[1] For that work I have paid M[r]. Bailey and his paper Maker M[r]. Steel,[2] 964 Dol. So that I am not much in arrears to Friend Bailey on score of the Mentor. Tho' I am still in arrears on acc[t] of his edition of [*the*] little bible. However, I trust, e'er long to make it up to his satisfaction. If M[r]. Bailey w[d] have me a couple of hundred copies neatly bound or in case of inconvenience *to him*, if *you w[d]* be so obliging as to do it, I w[d] pretty speedily remit you the amount, his rations only, (2/3 in the dollar) deducted. — Or if you or M[r]. Bailey, c[d] for me make an exchange of the Mentor with the Printers for little histories &[c]. &[c]. and send them on I sh[d] soon put them into a way of selling perhaps, and it w[d] be, without detriment to yourselves, an act of kindness to me which might by and by return you a 30 or 60 fold profit. I w[d] not wish more than *one half* of my Mentors to be dispos[d] of in this way. I shall set myself shortly in good earnest about M[r]. Guthrie. This I shall do both for *your sake* & *my own*. There is in this place a good press and 440 lb. of types of different sizes. The Lady who owns them, wishes to know what she can get for them in Philad[a], admitting the Press to be *tolerably* good & the type to be rated as *old metal*. You have never told me whether M[r]. Wilson, of Wilmington, had sent you up my little books (12 cents of Wit).[3]

I think that M[r]. Brundige can buy for you the press & types above mention[d] for at least *half their* value. It may not be amiss to write to him *immediately*. The Lady who owns them is nam[d]. Guionett.

Wishing yourself & family prosperity, I remain, D[r]. Sir

Yours

I wish you w[d] let M[r]. Brundige know the fate of the order on *Bains* the Typefounder.

[1] The 1796 edition, 'Printed for the Rev. Mason L. Weems, by Francis and Robert Bailey'. (*Bibliography, title 220.*)

[2] See *Addenda.*

[3] Perhaps a purchase, not his own reprint; in either case the edition has not been identified.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. July 20, 1798.

. . . I think it would be highly worth your while to visit this place. You might make very advantageous exchanges. I have a number of small books, pamphlets, Maps, prints, magazines, &c which I should willingly exchange for the Mentor. Besides: if you could come here, we might devise some plan for prosecuting the store business to more effect than we have done. . . .

I remain your ob[t]. h[ble] Serv[t].

I cannot speculate in the purchase of the Press & types.

L. & F. Vol. 30.

Dumfries. July 29. [17]98.

Sir. I have now been running in your harness about two years, in which time I have met with no obstacles like those of the last 5 weeks. Necessary business at home, wanderings of my horse — intense heat, and above all, a most tremendous imposthume with burning fever, w[d] not allow me to circumrotate more than 150 miles. However I have made out to pay Brundige for you this morning forty dollars.

As to the Store book plan, I have yet made no comment on that subject, partly from the exquisite pain I've been in, & partly because I did not wish to write without sending you some money to defray the expense. But I tell you *now*, as I've often told you *before*, that I am thoroughly persuaded that the establishment (in almost *every neighbourhood*) of a small book store consisting of *little histories*, all sorts of school books, and treatises on subjects that may strike the Mass as curious, entertaining or instructive, w[d] in the course of a few years accumulate *large monies* to any man who sh[d] conduct it in a *prudent* and *spirited manner*. I have about 4000 dollars worth books which I am willing to throw into your hands.

Having a good deal of money yet to collect for you, as also books to attend to, I cannot conveniently come up *now*, nor *shortly*. Perhaps a letter w[d] do the business as effectually. You will no doubt allow a handsome profit, as I shall be oblig[d] to give a good premium to my mercantile Friends to secure their vigorous cooperation.

Great prudence in choosing proper men, — in getting competent securities — in accomodating books to neighbourhoods, and great industry in travelling — visiting the stores — marking the sales — throwing in supplies — distributing catalogues — collecting orders, &c. &c. will be requisite to the success of this Undertaking.

It were well to *begin* on a *small scale* and that by way of *experiment.* I hope you have gotten my little books from Wilson. They will sell here rapidly.

Wishing you Health, Wealth & Peace

I remain Dr Sir

. . . I wd God you cou'd give Campbell some of your books for his History of American War — I cou'd sell a great many of them.

Why, Why, Why, wont you reprint a neat edition (on Brevier & fine paper) of the Episcopal Prayer book? I can sell a GREAT MANY. If you cou'd procure 100 copies of such a Bible as that advertisd by Wm. Corbett, I coud soon change them into cash. As I have a number of subscribers who are very importunate for them.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

PHILADa. Aug. 3, 1798.

Your favour of the 29th I recd. yesterday.

I can furnish you with any number of the Bible you mention. They cost me 5 $\frac{00}{100}$. I am willing to divide the profits with you equally — that is, to ship them to you at figure 6 $\frac{75}{100}$. . . .

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Aug. 18, 1798.

Dr. SIR, Within an hour I set out to collect.

As to the Bibles — My subscription papers have promis'd them at 8 Dol. you offer them at 6 $\frac{75}{100}$. One Dol. & a quarter is but small compensation for [*the*] trouble of travelling vending & collecting.

However if you chuse to deliver me 20 Copies here at Brundiges, I hope I shall soon convert them into cash for you.

I shall be answerable for the trunk (for I had rather, if *equally con-*

venient to you, receive them in a trunk than in a box) and the Bibles. Mathew Carey Esq'r will be answerable for the conveyance to his Friend

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DUMFRIES Sept. 1. [17]98.

SIR. . . . I sold a copy of Guthrie instantly & four copies of Paine. for Guthrie I shall be paid the moment I go again to Alexandria, for two cop. of Paine I receiv[d] payment, for the rest presently. I tried the Columbian Spelling book,[1] at one mill and a couple of little towns. I have already sold 17 doz. and hope to soon give the Midas touch to the rest. But I am sorry, both for your sake and my own, that many people complain of them as *dear*. They can get, they say, other spelling books two shillings in the doz. cheaper. I will not be positive but I think that I can do good things for you in the sale of School books, viz, *Spelling books*, *Testaments*, *bibles*, American Preceptors, books on Arithmetic, and especially *primer* and little Children's books with pictures. It were well to send me 60 doz or 80 doz spilling [*sic*] books to Petersburg to care of Grammar *instantly instantly*. I shall go down shortly to sell some of my Almanacs to the Merchants of that place and am in hopes to dispose of a great many of your spelling books. I shall exert myself to assist you in the article of the 200 dollars you wish me to raise for you. I now send you fifty-five dollars. If you confine the Columbian spelling book to my sole agency in Virginia, I shall have some encouragement to assist, but if you furnish all the large towns with them I shall do *so little* in that way as to make it not worth my labour. On what terms (the *lowest*) cou[d] you send me Brown on equality[2] by the *dozen?* I may perhaps sell a good many doz. for you. I wish you w[d] send me on,

[1] A very popular publication issued by Mathew Carey over a series of years. — *Ad.* 'For sale, at Samuel Pleasants' Printing-Office . . . where also may be had, (by the Dozen or Single Copy) The Columbian Spelling & Reading Book: Or An Easy and alluring Guide to Spelling and Reading. . . . The above Book is recommended by several of the most eminent Teachers on the Continent — and has generally been preferred to any publication of the kind that has yet appeared in America.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Dec. 25, 1798 *et seq. abbrev.*, AAS.

[2] *An Essay on the Natural Equality of Men; on The Rights that Result from it, and the Duties which it imposes:* . . . By William Lawrence Brown, D.D. . . . The First American Edition. Philadelphia: Printed for John Ormrod, by William W. Woodward, . . . 1793. From this essay Weems chose material for his *Philanthropist* (*Bibliography, titles 156, 157*).

to *Brundige*, 30 or 40 Doz. Columbian spell[g] book & 5 doz. Brown on equality. There is a young gentleman, a Mr. William S. Gantt near Princess Anne Somerset County, who is lately come to a large estate by the Death of a grandfather, he has 300 dollars worth of your books. I wish you w[d] write to him *immediately*. You will find him a man of honor. As to Burkitt I will write to you about him shortly. The moment I get clear of my almanacs[1] I shall fall on Guthrie, but I will not wait for that, I will fall on him directly. You won't get my books from Wilson.

I go away tomorrow and shall not be back under a fortnight. 13 or 12 of the Cop of Paine have no defense of Christianity (by Watson) The Bishop & Lords spiritual here w[d] tear me to pieces if I sold them. Shall return them to Brundige. Be pleas[d] to send me 12 cop. with Watson & if possible without Paine.

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Bowling Green Sep[t]. 9th [*1798*].

D[r]. Sir. Notwithstanding some complain that they are dear, *passing dear*, I have made a shift to sell all your Columbian Spell[g] Books. Next week, on my return Brundige shall have the money. If I sell you three hundred Dozen in one 12 month, wont you let me have them, *deliver[d]* here at Brundige's at 12/6 p[r] doz? Answer me that Master French Bur. I am now on my way to deliver 9 Guthries to a Gentleman who got me that number of subscribers. I have a plan to dispose of a great number of Guthries this winter, how many cou[d] you let me have in all? . . .

Be the true Lion Matthew Carey and you shall yet (if I live) find me a good Jackal.

What thou dost, do *quickly*.

Best wishes to Mrs. Carey.

I wish you w[d] tell M[r]. Conrad not to be *uneasy* that I hope yet to be a good Friend to him & his family. Prithee tell him that. Get my little books from Wilson, I once again conjure you.

If your Brother w[d] let me have Paine's Works, *without* the age of

[1] Possibly the *Lover's* or the *Bachelor's Almanac*, of which I have found no copy (*Bibliography, titles 155, 155A, 172, 172A*).

reason & *with* Watson, I cou[d] sell him a great many copies. I'll answer for the *Absurdity* of the *thing*.

What will you let me have them at if I sell you 500 Doz. in one little 12 month. However, I shall be satisfied with whatever thy Lion-like Heart can find to allow.

L. & F. Vol. 32.
DUMFRIES, Sep. 17. [17]98.

D[r]. SIR. . . . I wish I had 100 Doz. of Columbian Spelling book. I shall not be afraid of selling you a great, an immense number of them — *provided* you make me your *sole* agent here in *Virginia*. I set off tomorrow in quest of money for you, A M[r]. Williams [1] a Lawyer of Culpeper County, has gotten us 16 subscribers for Guthrie. Williams is a very clever fellow. I do not care how soon you send those copies — (via Dumfries.)

Adieu yours

Take care to steer clear of Miasmata NB. Lewis tells me that he has remitted your monies.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.
HORSEHAVEN, Sept. 22, [17]98.

Having abandoned Philadelphia for the present, it is impossible for me during the continuance of the prevailing disorder,[2] to forward you either Spelling Books or Geographies. Of the former I have hardly more than 2000 left, two thirds of which you shall have. Of the latter, I can supply 150 this season if the navigation should remain open for one Month, after our return. And in the spring, you may have 500. This is an object truly worth your attention.

I am preparing a valuable reading Book, as a second part to the Columbian Spelling Book.

I shall have a new & improved edition of the Spelling Book in the spring.

[1] Many references to a Mr. Williams of Culpeper in *Notes on Culpeper Co.*, 1900, LC.

[2] One of the great epidemics of yellow fever which recurred at this time.

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DUMFRIES. Nov. 11. [17]98.

Dr. SIR. . . . There is a very clever young gentleman (a Mr. Wm. Thornton)[1] of Culpeper County Mercht. who is willing to take an assortment of entertaining books such as Histories, Novels, school books, &c. &c. &c. to the amount of 400 Dol. he will sell them at 12½ pr Cent, will give the best security in Virginia and pay *one third* of the *Amount* on Delivery of the books. It will be a *good stand*. He is surrounded by a great number of Wealthy Relations.

Send me all the Columbian Spelling books that you can muster. Send me on at least 50 copies Guthrie neatly bound.

Conrad has some Thompson's[2] Dodds,[3] &c. no great matter of my books in his hands, I wish you wd take them into your keeping with promise to him that they shall be *his* until I pay him which I shortly shall.

I am confident 'twill be your interest to furnish Mr. Thornton with an assortment as aforesaid. Send them to Brundige in a handsome trunk. Allow me the usual rate and I'll carry them on.

Adieu yours

L. & F. Vol. 32.
DUMFRIES. Nov. 19. [17]98.

SIR: Be pleasd to send me the books pr inclos'd order, to care of Mr. Brundige. They are for a French School lately establish'd here.[4] Put them as low as you can, and give me a *good commission*. Be sure of that. Send me a myriad of Columb spel'g book a great many of the *cheapest* and best primers, likewise *lowest priced* bibles, Testaments and a few Psalters — you see all these are for wholesale uses to the nu-

[1] Mr. Wm. Thornton, merchant, of Culpeper, one of the subscribers to Carey's edition of Guthrie's *Geography* 1794–1795, LC.

[2] Probably Thomson's *Seasons*.

[3] *Reflections on Death by William Dodd LL.D.* . . . Philadelphia . . . Jacob Johnson & Co. . . . 1796. LC. — *Hayden's Genealogies*, p. 351, makes the following statement for which I have never established any foundation: 'Besides the lives of . . . he [*Weems*] wrote or edited . . . viz. . . . "Dodd's Reflections on Death." . . .'

[4] By L. H. Girardin, whose school was advertised in the local press. For further notes on him see letter of Sept. 2, 1801.

merous Merchants, about here i, e, in my extensive rides. You may laugh at it, but we cou'd make (*clear*) 300 Dol. pr. an. by Almanacs, I have just printed 10,000 of the *Lovers Almanac*,[1] containing a beautiful treatise on Love, courtship & matrimony. My first edition (5,000) are more than half sold at 5/7½ pr doz. My last and handsomer edition (5,000) one third sold, at 7/6 pr doz. Centaur like, tis half fabulous, half real, half my own, and half borrow'd. Shall I send you some. They'll go like Sampson's foxes, among your young Philistines of Philad'a. They may help to repair the waste by the yellow fever. What thou dost — do quickly.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad^a. Dec^r. 15, 1798:

> . . . Remember that the month of January is with me a very critical one. My engagements are numerous & heavy. The note for Burket, above 500 Dollars will be due the 4^th^. — Let me therefore impress on your mind, in the most forcible manner, the urgent & imperious necessity of using the utmost possible exertions to comply with the promises you made me, & on which I place reliance. Every motive arising from honour, gratitude, honesty, & Self Interest, points out the propriety of strict attention to this subject. I am willing to supply you with Books to any extent that your industry & the taste of Virginia will require; but I cannot and will not do so, without proportionate exertions on your part. Before this time I suppose you have rec^d^. the money from your brother. That due by your parishioners, I advise you to collect without delay. . . .

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Dumf. Decemb. 30, [17]98.

D^r^. Sir. I have seen my Brother, who will let me have 900 Dol. but not sooner than 5 or 6 weeks.[2] Believe me you can hardly be more uneasy than I am. Parochial duties have kept me here longer than I wish'^d^ but I shall set out tomorrow to see Geo. Lee. Be assured I will exert every nerve to assist you and to gratify as well [*as*] to enrich myself.

If you can but weather the storm but six weeks more, or so, if

[1] Never found under this exact title. (*See Bibliography, titles 155, 155A, 172, 172A.*)

[2] Probably William or David Locke Weems (*Appendix V*).

I don't either come up or make a handsome remittance may I be blotted out of the books of your esteem & confidence. I have not particularized the various hinges on which my exertions will turn, but never fear, they will not [*I*] trust "grate harsh discord." Untill I can settle this matter to your satisfaction I shall not want any more books from you. And if I am to co-operate with you in the spell'g book, let it be executed on the scale (of cheapness) I propos[d] to you. M[r]. Ewell shall write tomorrow, perhaps by this post, as he is expected in town every minute. God bless you.

Dear sensibility! Source of all that's precious in our joys, or costly in our sorrows. — LAWRENCE STERNE.

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DUMF. Jany. 22. [17]99.

Dr. SIR. Yesterday I paid Brundige for you 250 Dol. & two weeks ago lodgd a parcel of books with Magruder. You will credit me for two very large trunks of books left with Grammar. My brother promises me more money soon. I shall shortly remit a good deal of money and books. In the very hour you left me you wrote two long letters on the subject of *remittance* which I have as constantly in view as possible. Mr. Brundige tells me there are 3 more in the Office, fearing they are on the same subject I can't muster resolution or in other words, think it unnecessary to read so much on a subject that's as near to my heart as the payment of debt & remittance of books can be to an honest man. Store books deducted, I *owd* you, say 2500 Dol. *now* 2250. Of these 1500 . . . [*torn*] are now in the hands of my adjutants. On this view, if you wish my cooperation in the Spelling book & Ramsay,[1] the sooner they may be set about the better.

Yours respectfully

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 25, 1799.

A disorder in my eyes obliges me to employ an amanuensis to write to you.

The treatment I experience from you is shocking beyond expression. Not choosing to depend upon letters I undertook a journey to Dumfries at a great expence of money time & trouble & exposed to a great inclemency of weather to [*show?*] to you the difficulties I laboured under & to urge you to some adequate exertions. You were extremely liberal in your promises. I was to have from 1000 to 2000 Dollars in the course of a few weeks. You would get a 1000 Dollars from your Brother & four or five hundred dollars from your parishioners besides the collections of money due you and behold nearly two months are expired

[1] David Ramsay's *History of the American Revolution.*

without sending me one single solitary dollar. Your conduct to me Mr Weems is shameful beyond expression. . . .

When will you send me any money? I feel strongly disposed to treat you as Campbell has done, to attach the property you have here for your conduct to Campbell & since you are only a christian by halves you return good for evil but not good for good. Campbell you confess has deserved ill at your hands and I on the contrary extremely well yet you have paid Campbell for a good while better than you have me.

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DUMFRIES. Feby. 10, [17]99.

SIR. I saw a letter t'other day from Mr. Thos. Goodwin to Bertrand Ewell Esqr. assuring that if he (the aforesaid Bertrand Ewell Esqr.) wd send an order on stamp paper he wd pay immediately. Well I bought the stamp, carried it up to Bertrand Ewell, got the order on it, and it goes on, with this, to Mr. Goodwin. the order amounts to about 60 dol. a few days ago I pd to Brundige 20 Dol. for you. This, with a payment 3 Weeks ago makes up 330 Dol. I suppose I shall be able to return you 1500 or 1600 Dol. in books. I set out, day after tomorrow, collectg. bad roads, Weather, frequent calls to marry &c. &c. have prevented hitherto. I shall do what I can for you, on that you may depend. If you chuse to send me the Columbian Spellg book reducd according to my advice, I think tis likely I shall sell 5000 or more every year for you. If I have anything to do in it, I woud wish it to be under the following restrictions, 1st That nobody else in Virginia shall sell by wholesale, and 2d that the books shall be stord with Brundige & Grammar to whom I shall regularly pay for every parcel (the 1st excepted) that I take of them. What's becoming of Ramsay? Dr. Carey let me beg one thing of you viz. that you. wd not misconceive things. I can live without you, but the confidence you placd in me, crediting me (a stranger to you) with 15,000 Dol, has given me an attachment to you which you cannot easily, tho you seem at times to try it, dissolve.

However I shall say no more. Adieu

Day after tomorrow I set off, and shall return in 20 days. I steer to the South ward. Yours Dr. Sir

Compts. to your fair Amanuensis.

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DUMF, March 19 [17]99.

SIR. This day paid Mr. Brundige fifty dollars for you. The weather & Roads are terribly against the firm.[1] . . . Capt'n Tucker says he gave you the L'argent You know you must credit me *for my part* . . .

You say I intimate a wish for a divorce; no such thing. You credited me with 15,000 Dol worth of books. I shall not easily forget that — add to this you made but little by Goldsmith, tho I sold a great many for you, and you have been unfortunate in the reshipment of books from Alexandria, On these & other accounts I feel a wish to stick by you untill you yourself shall say that you have gain'd by me. You say, "I am a chapter of inconsistencies." Granted. But are you not a Vol.? In some things you have been to me as a Brother — in others a Barbarian. You make no allowance for the various evils, losses & debts you have brought on me by sending me such shoals of unsaleable religious books. But still I'm willing to stand by you, but in this way. I don't want any of your books yet awhile. I have 3000 Doll. worth of Blairs Sermons. I wish you to assist me to get clear of these in a way perfectly easy and highly advantageous to yourself. I can sell this fall between 10 and 20,000 Almanacs, and @ from 50 to 65 cents pr Doz. Can't you print these for me (on one sheet Royal or super royal paper) in such terms as to get Blair's Sermons at nearly one third of their value. You have no cause to be alarm[d] at the apprehension of having money to advance for I will obligate myself to remit you *two thirds*, two dol. out of three, *of all that I sell* which will be very fast, for it will be

[1] 'In his [*John Randolph's*] day, the roads in every portion of the United States were bad, but the Virginia roads were reputed the worst of all.' 'In 1802, Jefferson pronounced the road from Fredericksburg to Washington by way of Dumfries and Alexandria "the worst in the world."' *John Randolph of Roanoke*, William Cabell Bruce, Vol. I, pp. 570, 573, LC. Weems' acceptance, though with complaints, of the rigors of the road recalls that of his reputed forebear, David the third Earl of Wemyss, who in an undated letter of about 162–? to the Earl of Northesk wrote: 'I was very glad, my dear Lord, to know of your getting so well home, for I was in pain for being late that night. We sett out tomorrow early, and propose to ourselves but ane indifferent journey, for our coachman tells us the wayes are intollerably bad. You'll think, perhaps, the prospect of London before us is sufficient recompence for our fatigue. I doe not know what it may be to those who have angells before them, or to a man of Glasgow's vigour, and inclinations; but my aptits are very well sorted to my vigour, and both are not worth three farthings.' *Memorials of the Family of Wemyss*, Sir William Fraser, Vol. I, p. 340, LC.

a continuation of the Lover's Almᶜ. wʰ has met with a great run among the young people of this State. I have sold off (2 gross excepted) the whole of two large editions. I was week before last at Norfolk, where tho it was so late in the season, and that town delugᵈ with Almcs. I sold 6 or 700 in a little time. I suppose that 12,000 Almᶜˢ. containing each but one sheet super royal might be printed for *a trifle*. I wᵈ allow a large profit, and remit you two thirds of the money which will not only pay the *prime cost* but be something in pocket besides. What signifies your being [*sic*] or my having this or that book. The object is to have the money. Almˢ. will bring the money. And if I were to sell 1 or 2,000 doz. and you get 8 or 900 Dollˢ. 'twoud be a handsome thing on such a small affair as an Almᶜ. wʰ I wᵈ manage in *conjunction with better business*. The sooner I can get clear of my stock on hand the sooner shall I be ready to cooperate with you on a large & mutually profitable plan.

I know as surely as there is a power above us that a great deal of Wealth may be acquirᵈ by the sale of suitable books in this State. Small Merchᵗˢ. in the neighbouring towns have applied to me for the Columbian Spellinᵍ book. If you chuse to deliver me by Brundige 20 doz. cheap, I'll pay for them before hand.

Adieu yours,

L. & F. Vol. 32.

DUMF. March 25, 1799.

SIR. I sent you t'other day 50 dol. I now send you 10 more (by way of comfort for postage). Tomorrow I set out for more. Never was a man of *your acumen* more blind to his true interest than yourself, seldom any (*so generous as you*) so disengenuous. By volunteering on me a cataract of religious books you have brought me *some what* in debt, I say *some what* because when all your books come to be *returnᵈ* you'll find me *but some what* in your *debt*, and yet you push me as with a horn of iron for this as if it were *all* due in *money* whereas three 4ᵗʰˢ. of it are due in books returnable. This I think ungenerous. Well, because I do not more *truly*, *cannot* return the monies [*as*] fast as you wish, you withhold the subscription papers for Ramsay a book (for wʰ

especially if combin[d] with Heath's history [1] so highly spoken of by Washington) I cou'd get you a vast number of subscriptions and consequently of dol. This I call blindness to your true interest. For I do firmly believe that if I had but some specimens of a well approv[d] history of the American War & Revolution, specimens tho containing but one sheet of paper, fill[d] with some chapter selected from the most interesting & affecting part of the history, well *printed* and adorn[d] with one or two Cuts best fitted ad captandum &[c]. I have no doubt but I coud make you a great deal of money. This w[d] cost you no money untill the subscrib[rs] were engag[d] & the monies ready to take wing for Philad[a].

"Well, I w[d] do it but you won't send me monies as you promis[d]. You promis[d] me 1500 or 2000 Dols., and have sent me but 330." Now for my reason. When I saw you at my house I was troubled that I had not your money (tho' it was due chiefly for books w[h] you sent me without my wishes, for had I been let alone with Goldsmith & Guthrie I sh[d] not have fallen in your debt so,) yet I say I felt troubled, and began to calculate other probable sources whence I coud get a quantum. But in regard to my Brother, he can let me have but 500 Dol. one half only of w[h] I have yet had & *sent* you[,] the other I hope to get e'er long, but the interest on these monies grieves me. I expected monies from Geo. Town bank where are laid up 14 shares belonging to a charity school founded by me, but those monies draw a premium of 8 or 10 p[r] cent. And I think it hard to be paying such an interest while w[t] I owe you consists chiefly in books. I shall collect both books & monies as fast as I can. I told you in my last that I can send you a good deal of money this *summer* and fall if you will print me a large edition of An Almanac on one sheet only. I will not only pay you in Blair but allow you an immense profit on your alm[c] and besides send you *two thirds of all* the monies as fast as I collect them which I am confident will be very fast as "The Bachelor's Almanac," will be very curious & interesting. The truth is, I feel a wish (which gives me a secret pleasure) to be a good

[1] *Memoirs, of Major General Heath. containing Anecdotes, Details of Skirmishes, Battles, and other Military Events, During the American War. Written by himself.* . . . Printed at Boston, . . . Thomas and . . . Andrews, . . . Aug. 1798. LCPHIL. — Also listed in *Carey's Catalogue* for 1818, LC. — No Carey edition found by me, and it is fair to assume there was none, since in the New York edition of 1904 appears the statement that there was only one reprint after the edition of 1798, and that I have found to be in 1901.

friend to you, you have trusted me largely (perhaps 15000 Dol!) you know I did not *ask* it, no matter for that, so much greater the debt. I owe you now, *books* and *all* perhaps 1800 dol. You have said you have been a Loser by me, I can't guard against *accidents*, but I do not wish to leave you untill you can say to me — "You have been a good friend of mine."

If you had Ramsay printed this moment I cou[d] sell you a great many instantly, for Campbell (for whom I have a great many subscribers),[1] has treated me very rigorously. If you did but know the things that belong to your interest you w[d] instantly clap Ramsay or Heath with one or two fine cuts to half a dozen presses, and send 'em on to Brundige for me when I take from him 50 cop. I will pay for them and bring the money for the next supply.

Adieu, Yours.

[To George Washington] *LC.*

Dumfries March 26 — [*17*]99.

His Excellency Gen[l]. Washington.

Very honor[d]. Sir, I was t'other day in Norfolk where a very particular friend of mine Capt[n]. James Tucker a man of merit and money, begg[d]. me to ask a favor of you which we both concluded your goodness w[d]. readily grant.

Capt[n]. Tucker is a wealthy Merchant of Norfolk, largely in the importing line. He has lately been applied to for a quantity of merchandize on *credit* by a gentleman who calls himself Major James Welch and who says moreover that he is the man who purchased your excellency's Western lands of which report says you sold so much some time ago.

Capt[n]. Tucker wishes to know whether a Major Welch *did* purchase your excellency's lands or a part of them, and whether he met your excellency's expectations in the way of Payment.

If your excellency will condescend to honor me with a line on this subject it will be very gratefully acknowledged both by Capt[n]. Tucker & his and your Excellency's much oblig[d].

M. L. Weems.

[1] I have not identified to what book this refers.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 32.
Dumfries April 22, 1799.

. . . I set out again in 3 days collecting and shall make a sweep on the Eastern Shore on my way to Philad[a]. I coud sell a great many of the Columbian Spelling books for you.

Yours respectfully

L. & F. Vol. 33.
Dumfries May 28, [17]99.

Sir: I have just paid M[r]. Brundige a parcel of books as also a small sum to which I shall add *next week*. I am making preparations for a large remittance both of books & money. I know it is high time. But M[rs]. Weems's propinquity to the straw & several other things have operated villainously against me.

Yours respectfully,

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Philadelphia, June 10, 1799.

. . . The disadvantage I experience from the confidence I placed in you, and from the very great preparations I made of various kinds of Books for you, is incalculable. But for you, I should at this hour be easy & independent in my circumstances; instead of which I am constantly harrassed, & my credit [*is*] at stake, and in the utmost jeopardy. The am[t]. which I have paid for Two Books alone The Laws & Burket, purchased wholly for you, would extricate me.

Let me request you will carefully weigh these things — & determine to act as justice, honour, policy, & gratitude demand. Your promises are most miserably broken. The money promised me last December, to be paid in a few weeks, has not been quarter paid yet.

Your ob[t] h[ble] Serv[t]

L. & F. Vol. 33.
Dumfries. June 15, 1799.

D[r]. Sir, I am lost in a vortex of vexatious passions because I have done nothing these 5 weeks past owing partly to a broken carriage and to the uneasiness attendant on the very advanc[d] pregnancy & parturition of

my Wife. However I trust that in a few days 7 (or 8 at farthest) I shall be getting under way, and [*am*] most heroically resolv^{d} by the help of the lord of hosts to do good things for payment (in books & money) of what I owe you. I am now getting folded & stitch^{d} in flower^{d} paper Madame Genlis Sacred Dramas [1] printed by Mullen. I have got out a subscription paper rating their price at 3/9. 1350 of these will bring me at least 500 Dol. I have now printing 4000 Copies of (as I think) a very lively and entertaining dissertation on Natural equality abridgd from the famous Brown, and enrich'd with curious anecdotes &^{c} &^{c} [2] I read it in mss to numbers of good Judges who express^{d} a great wish I sh^{d} *print* it, assuring me that it w^{d} sell well. This I print in great measure on credit & on w^{h} I shall make my large profit. I have likewise just sent to press a little piece which I am morally certain will be *in great request.* "Hymen's recruiting Serjeant or the New Matrimonial Yankee Doodle." [3] I am just about opening a subscription paper for my Blair's sermons, of which I hope to sell a great many copies in the western counties, from these and a variety of other sources, as also from the collection of large monies due to me on your books and of the books themselves remaining unsold, I hope to annihilate your debt e'er long and to be in full readiness on even ground to commence business with you next spring and greatly to our mutual advantage. Jesse Ewell,[4] Lieutenant in the lately appointed army owes me 100 Dol. for w^{h} he has given me an order on the Department whose business it is to pay the Officers & Soldiers. His wages have been going on ever since the 27 of Jan^{y}. Be pleas'd to let me know whether by sending his order on to you it will be paid. You offer'd to give me some of your Museums [5]

[1] *Sacred Dramas, Written in French, by Madame La Comtesse de Genlis. Translated into English, by Thomas Holcroft.* . . . Fredericksburg: Printed by L. A. Mullin, for the Rev. Mason L. Weems, 1797. (*Bibliography, title 235.*)

[2] *The Philanthropist; or, A Good Twelve Cents Worth of Political Love Powder,* . . . By the Rev. M. L. Weems (of Lodge No. 50), Dumfries, [*n.d. 1799?*]. (*Bibliography, titles 156, 157.*)

[3] *Hymen's Recruiting-Serjeant, or the New Matrimonial Tat-Too, for the Old Bachelors.* . . . By the Rev. M. L. Weems, Lodge No. 50, Dumfries. . . . Philadelphia: Printed by John Bioren, No. 88, Chesnut-Street, for the Author. 1805. (*Bibliography, title 161.* For notes on an earlier edition, possibly the one here referred to, see *titles 160, 160A.*)

[4] Probably one of his brothers-in-law.

[5] *The Columbian Museum,* edited by Carey, was an excellent compilation, but though it ran for a number of years, it was not sufficiently successful financially for Carey to keep it going.

in exchange for Blair, I think I coud sell a good many of them. You said they have frontispieces. If you will send me on 200 that are in good order I will try to sell them off and give Brundige the mony. I wish you w'd be so good as to ask M^r. Bailey how many of my Immortal Mentors are now on hand. Wou'd it not be well for me to open a subscription paper for the Immortal Mentor stitch'^d in Marble paper at 4/6 Virg. money. I cou'd sell immense numbers. I am all impatient to knock off all my books now on hand, pay for w^t I owe & prepare to begin on some grand plan next spring.

L. & F. Vol. 33.
DUMF. June 24, 1799

D^r. SIR. . . .
Volti.

I have nearly ready for the press a piece christen^d, or to be christen^d, "The Beauties of Washington."[1] tis artfully drawn up, enliven^d with anecdotes, and in my humble opinion, marvellously fitted, "ad captandum — gustum populi Americani!!!! ["] What say you to printing it for me and ordering a copper plate Frontispiece of that HEROE, something in this way. George Washington Esq^r. The Guardian Angel of his Country "Go thy way old George. Die when thou wilt we shall never look upon thy like again" M. Carey inver. &^c.

NB. The whole will make but four sheets and will sell like flax seed at quarter of a dollar. I cou'd make you a world of pence and popularity by it.

L. & F. Vol. 33.
DUMF. July 8, [17]99.

D^r. SIR — Today I make you a small remittance by our friend Brundige. Tomorrow (my sulky finish^d and Wife at *home*) I set out to collect

[1] Judging by his letters, here is Weems' first step toward the realization of his project to write the lives of American heroes, previously hinted at in his letter to Carey of Jan. 22, 1797. From this small beginning sprang, six months later, the first of his numerous editions of the *Life of Washington* (*Bibliography, titles 1–84*), the book which was *his* masterpiece and on which his fame chiefly rests. (See letters of Oct. 21, 1799, Jan. 12 or 13, and Feb. 2, 1800, with footnotes.)

books & money, a work in which I trust I shall progress with more enthusiasm than the turban[d] Turk ever yet felt in visiting the tomb of the prophet.

L. & F. Vol. 33.
July 22 [17]99.

. . . If you shou'd or *can*, see anything of my Quondam Serv[t]. Sam beg him to come down.

L. & F. Vol. 33.
Dumf. 28 July. [17]99.

Monday I paid Sign[r] Brundige 20 Dol. for you today I pay him 10. more. By slow and sure the Tarapin got to the goal. Soon, I hope, you shall get a remittance worthy of you, worthy of

yours

L. & F. Vol. 33.
Sept. 17, 1799.

D[r]. Sir, Yesterday I paid M[r]. Brundige twenty dollars for you. I have the prospect of making you good remittances shortly. I have just launch[d] a little Political piece entitled "The Philanthropist." (By Myself). Washington has given me his thanks for it which will be printed in the gazzette today.[1] In 3 days I sold 350 at a dollar per dozen. I have likewise just got out my Bachelors Almanac,[2] with an Essay (by myself) entitled "Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant." Much admir[d] by the best Critics in Alexandria where last week I sold 8 gross in one day & an half. Be assur[d] Friend Carey I am incapable of doing you intentional wrong. As to your books, in the coming spring, when we can start even, I am your man.

Yours with a fervent prayer that I may live to better your fortune to the tune of Cent per Cent.

[1] Assuming that Weems was writing from Dumfries, as seems most likely, this letter ought to be in the *Maryland Gazette* (Annapolis), but I have failed to find it there from Sept. 12 to Oct. 31, MdStL.; or in the *Federal Gazette* (Baltimore), Sept. 16–20, AAS. It was printed by Weems and issued with *The Philanthropist* (*Bibliography, titles 156, 157*).

[2] No copy ever located by me. For notes, see *Bibliography, titles 155A, 186.*

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

GERMANTOWN, Sept. 19, 1799.

Desirous to compromise affairs between us on as easy a basis as possible, I submit to your consideration the following proposition, which, I trust, you will find highly reasonable.

I. Remit me by the 1st. day of November, 400 Dollars.

II. Give me notes for the balance due 3, 6, 9 fifteen Months, in order to liquidate the old acct.

III. In case of your compliance with these terms, I seriously pledge you my honour, to send you a supply of Spelling Books, Primers, American Preceptors, newest & most approved novels, and, in fine, of every article that I have, best suited to the Virginia market, to the amount of five hundred Dollars; and as fast as they are sold I shall [*replace?*] them.

I propose to print many works, principally novels, subscriptions for which you could raise with great facility.

L. & F. Vol. 33.

DUMFRIES, Octob. 7, 1799.

SIR, Today I pay unto Mr. Brundige for you 40 dollars (being part of what I clear'd in 3 days by sales of the Bachelors Almanac & the Philanthropist.)

Grammar tells me he sent you on a few days ago 150 dol. Tomorrow I set out again collecting for you. Shall do all I can for you, and especially for MYSELF, for no Newgate bird was ever more anxious to have his gyeves struck off than am I to escape the trammels of debt. I mean to see Martin & Lee, — I am astonishd at their delinquency. They are good men & rich. You had better contrive matters so as to have FOUR THOUSAND COLUMBIAN Spelling books lodgd with Brundige in the course of Novemb.

I can certainly sell that number in the course of the cold weather. Put them low. I shall pay Brundige as I receive them.

L. & F. Vol. 33.

DUMFRIES, Octob. 21, 1799.

. . . Your offer is like yourself — generous & friendly — the only objection I have to it is — that I don't like to give my Notes for *money*

when a major part of what I owe you, is in books on hand, books, by *contract, returnable*. Let the notes run in that style of exception, and I am ready to give them.

I have sold about 8,000 of my Bachelors Alm'^c^. already. I have now on the Anvil and pretty well hammer'^d^ out a piece that will sell to admiration.

THE TRUE PATRIOT

or

BEAUTIES OF WASHINGTON

Abundantly Biographical & Anecdotical
Curious & Marvellous.[1]

Smith's — (the first Settler) History of Virginia recommended by M^r^. Jefferson is thro my great industry nearly ready for the press.[2] Your books — Columbian Spell^g^ book & Reading d^o^. will go I think as fast as the yellow fever.

NB, You must, if *we agree*, let me have them deliver^d^ in Virginia via Dumf. & Brundige, and *vastly cheap*. I speak this on *your* acc^t^. as well as on my own.

Shall snatch the first leisure moment to give you the list of the books which I have at different times & to different persons deliver'd this year. Adieu.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

DUMFRIES. Nov. 9. [*17*]99.

D^r^. SIR. On Saturday last I paid M^r^. Grammar thirty dol. for you — and five Cop. History of Women — 2 D^o^ of Cecilia — 2 Looker on & 4 Jefferson's Notes — 4 Pocket atlass. Today (Saturday again) I pay Brundige twenty dol. for you. As I intend this winter to try myself on Guthrie, I wish that you woud [*send*] me one of the handsomest copies that you can afford (gilt) at 12.D.75 C. You may divine that

[1] Evidently, at so early a date as this, the embryo of Weems' *Life of Washington* contained within itself the germ of an entirely distinct and more abstract pamphlet not published until 1802, *The True Patriot* (*Bibliography, title 173*). See also letter of Sept. 28, 1801.

[2] I have never found any such issue.

I want it as a Sample. Mr. Pollard informs that he has pd you pr. Pleasants. 144 Dol. You shall hear from me shortly on the score of the Notes & lists of books. Be assurd I wish to be out of debt to you, but it is not solely with a view to the emoluments of future commerce: for I feel that better is a dinner of herbs with love than Stalld Beef with acrimony and distrust.

Yours with great benevolence.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

Dumfries, Nov. 24, [*1799.*]

Dr. Sir. . . . I set off on Monday for Norfolk. hope shortly to send you a good stout remittance.

I feel in a humour to insist on a monoply of the Columbian Spellg book. I mean in the States of Virginia & Maryland. I shall then have cause to push the histories with *becoming* intrepidity. You will not fail instantly to marshal 3000 on the Campus Martius of Brundige, ready to march (on receivg their advance money) at a moment's warning from Lieutenant General — Weems.

I shall soon be done with the sales of my Almanacs Philanthropists, &c. &c. and then shall be cut and dry for those new recruits. But remember I shall have nothing to do with them farther than to pay Brundige 12/6 per doz. — and as fast as I receive them.

Yours respectfully

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 36.

Dumf. Decemb. 31, [*17*]99.

Sir, Owing to the sudden death of my good old Horse, and the consequent necessity & expence of purchasing another I cannot send you a larger New Year's gift than 20 or 30 Dol. wh I shall pay Mr. B. tomorrow. I have about a thousand of the Death of Abel (most of them in your hands) what will you give me in exchange for them. They are doing neither of us any good. Whereas the monies that might be obtaind by the sale of whatever you wd give me in lieu, might do us some good.

I see that I have a good many of Goldsmith yet knocking about here in Virginia. I'll give you the 1000 Death of Abel large type and frontispiece for 21 Cop. Goldsmith and will immediately push out a new subscription paper, and will moreover promise to send you the monies arising from the sale.

Of these strange anecdotes, a part may be true, because probable; and a part true because improbable. Procopius must have known *the former, and the latter he could scarcely* invent. — EDWARD GIBBON.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

Jan. 12, or 13, 1800.

Dr. SIR. Tomorrow (13th. January) I pay B[*rundige*] Money for you. I've something to whisper in your lug. Washington, you know is gone! Millions are gaping to read something about him. I am very nearly primd & cockd for 'em. 6 months ago I set myself to collect anecdotes of him. You know I live conveniently for that work. My plan! I give his history, sufficiently minute — I accompany him from his start, thro the French & Indian & British or Revolutionary wars, to the Presidents chair, to the throne in the hearts of 5,000000 of People. I then go on to show that his unparrelled rise & elevation were owing to his Great Virtues. 1 His Veneration for the Diety, or Religious Principles. 2 His Patriotism. 3d his Magninmity. 4 his Industry. 5. his Temperance & Sobriety. 6 his Justice, &c. &c. Thus I hold up his great Virtues (as Govr McKean [1] prays) to the imitation of Our Youth. All this I have lind and enlivend with *Anecdotes apropos interesting* and *Entertaining*.[2] I have read it to several Gentlemen whom I thought judges, such as Presbyterian Clergymen, Classical Scholars &c. &c. and they all commend it much. it will not exceed 3 royal sheets on [*sic*] long primer. We may sell it with great rapidity for 25 or 37 Cents and it wd not cost 10. I read a part of it to one of my Parishioners, a first rate

[1] Thomas McKean, Governor of Pennsylvania, 1799–1808. Sketch in *Harper's Encyclopaedia of United States History*. . . . Based upon the plan of Benjamin John Lossing, LL.D. . . . New York, LC.

[2] The first definite outline of what was later issued as the Green & English edition of Weems' *Life of Washington* (*Bibliography, title 2*), a book which had been simmering for many months (see letters of Jan. 22, 1797, June 24 and Oct. 21, 1799) and which did not appear in print until after a different version had been issued anonymously. See note to letter of Feb. 2, 1800.

lady, and she wish[d] I w[d] print it, promising to take one for each of her children (a bakers dozen). I am thinking you coud vend it admirably: as it will be the first. I can send it on, half of it, *immediately*. I set out to sell spell[g] books this week, on Monday I go to see Martin[,] Lee &[c].

L. & F. Vol. 32.
Jany. 26. DUMFRIES 1800

D[r]. SIR. . . . "Nil desperandum" (Deo Adjuv.)

NB. I'd sold those 370 in 2 or 3 days.

Good bye

L. & F. Vol. 36.
DUMF, Feb. 2[d] 1800

D[r]. CAREY,

Ten days ago I sent you	15 Dol.
Day before yesterday	25.
Tomorrow	10. or 15.

I sent you on a sample of History of Washington — In consequence of not hearing from you I resolv[d] to strike off a few on my own acc[t].[1] It is in our power to make this thing profitable and beneficial — Everybody will read about Washington — and let us hold up his Great Virtues — Some, may go and do likewise — There is a beautiful likeness of Washington in one of the Ladies Magazines; he was *young*, *beautiful* and *interesting* when that was taken. If you have to have that engrav[d] on Copper as a Frontispiece to our little book it might have a happy effect. Our book will not make more than 4 sheets Royal, small pica Type. I coud sell thousands of them — The title page, Dedication, (which I have thought of turning to M[rs]. Washington) and Preface, are yet a corps de reserve.

Retouch, as you go along; you are a good hand.

[1] Probably still alluding to the Green & English edition of his *signed* version of the *Life*. There does not seem to be a hint anywhere in Carey's or Weems' letters that the former was ever apprised by the latter of the Keatinge *unsigned* version. Already Weems was evidently vamping what I believe was his earlier material, preparing for this other and different issue — the Green & English version — (*Bibliography, title 2*) — the first to contain a Dedication.

I know you desire to do *Good*, your Selections show it — We may preach through the Example & Virtues of Washington — Adams & Jefferson both will approve of our little piece. —

I am in expectation of good things shortly for you. You know what I mean — Money. There are innumerable errors in w^t I sent you.

L. & F. Vol. 36.
DUMFRIES. March 24. 1800

D^r. CAREY, Parson Weems is still in the land of the Living; and of course, still in the *minority*, where you w^d have 'im. Today I pay — 20 D.

to Brundige — two weeks ago I paid 30
3 days ago I left a copy Goldsmith 6
With Magruder

Yours respectfully & gratefully

The Spelling books are at Alexandria; but not come to hand. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 36.
DUMFRIES. March 30. 1800

DEAR SIR.

	Dol
. . . 6 days ago I paid M^r. Brundige	20
I now pay you pr. D^o	20
	$40

In three hours I set out, on an excursion in w^h I mean *sans faut* to see Martin & Tyler & Lewis. In a fortnight shall visit Lee & then Prentis. You shall soon (Deo Volent) have a good account of the Columbian Spell'g books &c. &c. Adieu

The roads will soon be good.

L. & F. Vol. 36.
April 14, 1800.

D^r. SIR — I call^d on D^r. Tyler. he was not at home but his young man said that he had sent you some money. . . . Tomorrow I set out with one box of the Columbian Spell^g books. shall be back in 3 days, and

then, after preach[g] a Funeral Sermon (from *which* I hope I shall send you 10 or 15 Dol) shall set out the next day to see Lee. Afterwards shall go down to Prentis. Lewis declar[d] to me that he had sent on an order to a M[r]. Beckly [1] (formerly Speaker to one of the Grand Conclaves, Congress or Senate) to pay you. How come on the Gentlemen to whom you sent Goldsmith? I mean Wharton, &[c]. &[c]. Martin will be cut & dry in 6 weeks. Suppose we print a confounded large edition of our Almanac this year. If I coud have them at Norfolk, Petersburg, Richmond, Fredericksbg & Alexandria, by the 1[st] day of September, I coud sell 20,000. I w[d] engage 15,000, what coud you print that number for? — One sheet & one half Royal paper or size Last half sheet Brevier type? I shall go on to remit —

L. & F. Vol. 36.

DUMFRIES. April 19, 1800.

D[r]. SIR. The day before yesterday I went into Fredericksbg with 18 doz. Spell[g] Books. Sold them in two hours. Paid M[r]. B[*rundige*].

35 Dol. for you	35
4 days ago	25
	Dol. 60

NB. I don't like figuring. But answer me a plain question. For what will you print me 6,000 Copies of a 4 sheet (Royal) Pamphlet? I mean "A history of the Life, Death, Virtues & Exploits of our great & good old Countryman, Gen. Geo. Washington." [2] 4 Sheets of Royal paper, colour & quality of that on w[h] you have printed the Columbian Spell[g] book. No Engravings — No Binding — no anything, save plain fold & stitch. Duoform & long primer type. When finish[d] I'll come along to Philad[a] & before I leave it pay you 100 Dol. & the rest as fast as I

[1] John Beckley, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States for the first four Congresses: Mar. 4, 1789 - Feb. 14, 1797. — 'Received 23[d]. October 1801, of M[r] Mathew Carey five dollars ninety five cents for a fee in taking deposition on a commission from Kentucky. John Beckley.' *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS. — For a notice of his death see *Virginia Argus*, Apr. 14, 1807, AAS.

[2] With the exception of an edition in 1801 by Matthias Bartgis of Frederick-Town, which is copied after the earlier Keatinge version, this is the title practically as given in the Green & English edition (Georgetown) and all subsequent editions up to 1806. The Green & English version is undated but the evidence points to its being the first edition after that of Keatinge (see *Bibliography*, *title 2*, and also letter of May 21, 1800).

sell w^h I am sure will be *very rapidly*. Wou'd God you w^d reprint Leonidas, by Glover.

NB. You must deliver to me in Virginia all that I don't take away myself. I set out in a fortnight or 3 weeks to Norfolk &^c. &^c. If you chuse to send on to Grammar & Tucker (to *each*) 30 Doz. Columb Spell^g book, a/12/6 Penn's[*ylvania currency*], per Doz. payable to them there, I'll shew you w^t Providence can & will do for

M. L. Weems.

As pants the hart for cooling
Streams, so pants my soul O Carey,
to owe thee nought but — Love —

L. & F. Vol. 36.
May 21, 1800.

Dear Sir, Tomorrow I set out for *Philadelphia* — I shall bring *money in my purse*. I want you to do me a Service — It will be your own interest to do it. I have before me a copy of your Columbian Spelling book — you gave a sum for the Copy Right — you have adorn'd it with 74 Metal Cuts — you have fortifyed it with binding, (Pasteboard & leather) and yet after all you can sell them by the doz at 12/6. Well, go to, and print me 5,000 of my history of Washington, and I will pay you a good price and pay you the *moment I get to Philadelphia*. I send you herewith one half of the work, that you may put it to press *instantly*. I send you also a copy of the Philanthropist, that you may see that I am not yet quite a Simpleton nor a Sluggard. I have some notion (and my heart is not altogether still at the thought) that I shall yet do some great things for you. I say put this moiety to the press instantly, and you shall have the pay of 5,000 Copies the moment I come up. I can sell 10,000 Copies in *Virginia alone!* Let the paper be *fair* & *thick*, like that of the Columbian Spell^g book. I shall take Lee & Martin in my way. 10 or 12 days will bring me in sight of Matthew Carey, Esq^r. whose countenance was never yet a cloud to M. L. Weems — you have wonder'd that I have not sent you money. I'll explain at Philadelphia —

Next week as I come along I shall send you the last sheet. The first Sheet of 24 pages I shall bring up with me, I want the work

what [*that?*] I send you in *readiness* at my arrival. The same size as to page & type, but better paper than the copy sent you.[1]

I trust you will see that it be very correct.

Remember I bring large monies with me.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

WILMINGTON, July 10, 1800.

DEAR SIR. I send you ten Dollars!!! —

Such a *grace* may surely season as follows — Put not the definitive touch to any thing that Bioren alias Black-Beard may say about 2/9 the doz. for Almanacs — M^r^ Niles[2] of this place will print us an Almanac 48 pages, Medium, *Beautiful*, &^c^. &^c^. for 2/——!!!!!!!

Festine lente — Festine lente!

Don't print or reprint anything for *me* without the approbation of Parson Weems — The Cowl knows best w^t^. will suit in Virginia. As to the piece on Education — I've read it — the result — My Eyes are sore, my temper not sweet. If Immortality or Money be your aim (in that last I mean) say nothing to it until it has passed the Calcining ordeal of your

M. L. WEEMS —

My best LOVE to M^rs^. Carey & to the family.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

WILMINGTON, July 11, 1800.

D^r^. SIR. Again I send thee ten Dollars; and again I say unto thee "put not the touch definitive to any contract or compact about the Almanacs, untill I see thee . . .

Suffer, *if no inconvenience result*, suffer the *last sheet* of the old Bachelor to lie unspread and the old Scoundrel, trembling & cold, untill I come up.

[1] This points to the probability that the Green & English edition was already issued, since the Keatinge edition was so much smaller than all the other imprints.

[2] Probably Hezekiah Niles, co-publisher with Vincent Bonsal, of the *Delaware Gazette*, Mar.–Sept., 1799. See *Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690–1820, Clarence S. Brigham, ProcAAS.*, Oct., 1913, p. 336.—Mr. Niles, of Bonsal & Niles, Booksellers, Market St., Baltimore. See *National Magazine*, Vol. I, No. IV, p. 297, LC.

Say thy prayers — don't swear — and be of good comfort — Thou may'st yet ride in thy coach!!!

Thine Affect.

Love fraternal to Mrs. C.
D°. to the family.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

WILMINGTON, July 12, 1800.

Dr. SIR. Again I send you ten Dollars — And again I beg you to keep in mind that the sooner you can *dispose* of the present (the 2d) edition of Washington's life [1] the *better*. Hang *me*, if I am not *dog-sick*, on looking at it. And nothing but *necessity* cou'd make me lug it out even on Journeymen. Hatters & Blacksmiths. But that's always your way to *overlook* the *present profitable*, and keep your eye on the *precarious future*. Wou'd to God you wou'd lay about you to send off as many of the Life of Washington *as possible*. I must have a capital edition this Fall. Prithee take a good account of all you get from Mrs. Smith [2] &c. There'll be an old Babel & the D—l to pay in this matter yet. In two days (thank God) I've paid 80 Dollars! — 50 to Adams & 30 to yourself. I shall set out *on Thursday* for Philadelphia.

Yours & Mrs. C.

[*Written on outside of letter:*] This moment reciv'd yours — Don't contract for any particular number until I see you!!

L. & F. Vol. 36.

BURLINGTON, July 30, 1800.

Dr. SIR, I send you twenty dollars — Strike me off, but 6,000 Almanacs. 6,000 blessings attend you!!!!!

[1] As the allusion of February 2, 1800, is the only hint found in Weems' letters to Carey of an earlier version of his *Life of Washington* than the one usually accredited to him, issued over his own name, this reference is clearly to the John Bioren 'Second Edition Improved.'

[2] Mary Smith rendered a statement to Mathew Carey, dated Nov. 22, 1800, for various articles of stitching done on three or four of Weems' books. *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 15:5987. One of her bills in 1795 was signed with a cross — 'Mary Smith X her mark'.

L. & F. Vol. 36.
BRISTOL. July 31, 1800.

Dr. SIR.

Yesterday 20 Dol.
Today 20 Do.

Your nerves are irritable — don't forget your bark — Port Wine and Prayers — I have seven Subscribers to Bible — hold your peace —

I have found out, or *rather*, kind heaven has thrown a good work into my way. . . . Adieu.

Don't overlook my little cash book —

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.
PHIL. August 2, 1800

. . . I was in hopes that the want of a fiddle would have enlarged your letters beyond a few meagre lines. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 36.
TRENTON — Aug. 2d. 1800.

Dr SIR. . . . If it make no odds, I wish you wd not put Washington to the press till further communications —

Shall thank you to have *nicely* put up in strong papers 50 of the Old Bachelors & send them to Mr. John Adams, Newcastle by the New Castle packet. take receipt from the skipper.

L. & F. Vol. 36.
TRENTON, Aug. 4, 1800.

Dr SIR. Saturday I sent you 10 Dol. Today (Monday) I send you 25 Do.

. . . Your fault (if you have one *at all at all*) is sanguinity. Keep your loof [1] from the [*torn*] and you'll do full well.

[1] Loof — old English word, probably of Dutch origin; a nautical term meaning, as used most generally, a contrivance for steering a ship. See *An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language*, Rev. Walter W. Skeat, M.A., New York, 1882, LC. — Loof or luff: 'The side of a ship toward the wind.' *Webster's New International Dictionary.*

I have 13 subscribers more — to Bible. Tomorrow I set out for N. York. I wish you w^d overhall my old papers — you may lay hand on my subscription paper for Immortal Mentor for New York —

if it make no odds put not Washington to press till you hear from me.[1]

L. & F. Vol. 36.

PRINCETON, Aug. 6th. 1800.

D^r. SIR.

	Dol.
Yesterday, I sent you, from Trenton.....	25
Today I send you	15

I have not forgotten your chair — I am working along. Sometimes, reflecting, as I enter these proud towns, that I have nothing with me but a few *unessential pamphlets*, I can't help falling into a tremble-ation. In conscience, I shou'd think a tinker or a cobler stood a better chance. But, thank God, whose providence is kinder to me than I deserve, I keep picking up a little money scarce as that article is.

Volti subito — . . .

Considering that I have been all along on *Isaac Collins's*[2] *ground*, I can't help thinking I have done so far pretty well. Never fear. The bible's my text, and I shall stick to it, in spite of the world, the flesh, and the Devil. I have great hopes about this same bible. In less than *one week* you see I have gotten you 30 subscribers & thereby *at least* 20 Dollars.

I w^d it were 20,000.

Love to all the family.

NB. Since morning I have got 26 subscribers, more!

[1] It seems probable that Carey had at least partial direction of the issue of *Washington* at this season, and I believe it was that of Bioren's second edition.

[2] Prominent printer and publisher of 189 Pearl Street, New York. See *American Dictionary of Printing and Bookmaking*, New York, 1894, p. 101, LC.; also *New Jersey Printers of the 18th Century*, William Nelson, in *ProcAAS.*, New Series, Vol. XXI, pp. 29–30.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

BRUNSWIC, Aug. 8. 1800

Dr. SIR.

	Dol
Stage before the last I sent from Princeton .	15
Now from Brunswic I send you	20

I hope you will yet live to thank God for setting you upon the Bible. — More Subscribers — . . . [*A list follows.*]

I have a good many more Subscribers — I hope we shall do great things. But let us remember — festina lente!! One man seem'd very desirous to encourage the work — he ask'd what allowance I wd make him on condition of subscribing for several Copies. I told him that if he wd subscribe for 6 he shd have the 7th gratis. Will that do?

In the little box that brings the Mentors to New York, be pleasd to send me at least 30 subscription papers, [*for Carey's Bibles?*] each containg an *engraving*, a specimen of the type, and one fly leaf for subscribers. Thank God I am well, tho from breakfast till tea, constantly engagd in *walking*, *talking*, *pleading*, & *preaching* to the Multitudes. The five & twenty dollar hot pressd bible [1] has done me great good! The contrast (in point of price) furnished good grounds for declamation —

Love to the family.

[1] This may refer to the edition by Small & Thompson (see note 1 to first letter of Aug. 12, 1803), which is also probably the one listed thus in *Carey's Catalogue* for 1818, LC.: 'Holy Bible, hotpressed, calf, *a little used*, 2 vols. $22 *Philad.* 1798.' — The following advertisement throws an interesting sidelight: 'Hot-Pressed Books All books of all kinds are now advertised to be printed on a *wire-wove* paper and *hot-pressed*, with *cuts*, down to the *Philosophical* transactions, (the uniformity of which work is destroyed by this folly unworthy of such a society) and Mr. *Rennell's* learned memoir on Hindostan; as if the intention were, that they should be looked at and not read. . . . As to these *wire weavers* or drawers of *paper* and *hot pressers*, must we say to the public, in the indignant words of Apuleius, "Quinsque frustra pascetis *ignegenos* istos?" Surely this foolery must soon cease. . . . I wish, to be sure, some of our *statutes at large* could be a little *wire-drawn* and *hot-pressed* by a committee of *Parliamentary* Printers and Compositors.' *Porcupine's Gazette* (Philadelphia), Jan. 29, 1798, LC.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

BRUNSWIC. Aug. 9, 1800

D^r. SIR. Thank God, the Bible still goes well; better, I think, than Washington. . . . A great deal of our future success in life (as Printers, Bibliopolists &^c.) will depend on the satisfaction you shall give in this undertaking. I am *agreeably surpris^d* to find among the multitude such a spirit of veneration for the Bible. Good old Book! I hope we shall live by you in this world and in the world to come!!

The great revolutions among my subscribers to Mentor,[1] (during six years since they touch^d the paper) have operated against me. Deaths, removals, insolvencies & villainies have prov^d pernicious to me. You may thank Washington & the Bachelor for most of the remittances made you. You wanted to put the bible at five Dollars. Everybody says 'tis cheap at six. As requested in my last, send me 30 Neat subscription papers, in the box which brings the Mentors to New York.

If I make up 200 subscribers in this trip to N York; 'twill be well, will it not?

Volti

We may do great things with the Bible, if I may form an inference from the success that has already attended us. One hundred subscribers from Burlington to Brunswic! Why, the sound of Collins's Bible Press, one w^d suppose, had hardly yet left the ears of the People. Small editions, Friend Carey, small editions for ever. I hope you don't even dream of putting Guthrie's imperfections to Press, until I shall have dispos^d of the mass now on hand. Turn your whole attention to the Bible. "Read by day & meditate by night." I hope you have got M^r. Tiebout [2] on the other engraving.

Don't expend much money on Books or Prints. Turn your attention to the bible. I have promisd it to my subscribers in May. I think it

[1] Apparently for the 1796 edition. (*Bibliography, title 220.*)

[2] Cornelius Tiebout . . . 'Has the distinction of having been the first American-born professional engraver to produce really meritorious work . . . He went to Philadelphia about that time [*1799*] and . . . is said to have made considerable money in his business.' *American Engravers upon Copper and Steel,* David McNeely Stauffer, 1907, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 271, 272. — Cornelius Tiebout, born in New York, probably about 1777, went to England to study in 1796. Was employed by M. Carey and other publishers. 'After accumulating prop-

were well for you to print only 2,500 for the *first* edition. It w'd be a clear 2,000 Dollars to you in *one* year after the work was put into my hands!!! *No loss of time*, money or temper. No Caput mortuum. All Argentum Vivum. Think of that Master Carey.

L. & F. Vol. 36.

ELIZABETH TOWN. Aug. 13, 1800.

Dr. SIR. . . . You said, the welfare of my family is dear to you; — to me, much dearer, I trow, is that of yours. Hence my solicitude, lest, not duly appreciating this Bible affair, you shd transfer your attention to objects comparatively *trifling*. O let me not turn upon you that two and forty pounder "Matthew, Matthew, thou art careful about many things — but, *one* thing is *needful!!*" The Bible may bring you 15,00 or 2,000 Dol pr An. for 1, 2, or more years to come. A great deal for one book I think! I have promisd it shall be handsomely done. and I have spoken handsome things of you as an *honorable Man*. I want you to keep out of all *unnecessary expence*. Believe me, my friend, you are a little too sanguine as I take it. Many things are not worth powder and shot. The Bible is a Galleon! Reserve your ammunition for that. Tis a great thing to be on the back of a good whale, that will keep us up, here, and after all, land us Jonas like, safe on heaven's dry shore at last. Take a little bark daily; good Port, no Alcohol — weak tea or coffee well milkd. 3 cups, no more.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

ELIZABETH TOWN Aug. 14, 1800

Dr. SIR. . . . I'm in the slough of despond, with respect to, and on account of, this bible. I fear you'll be after printing too many. If due attention be paid, you may, doubtlessly, monopolize the Bible business

erty . . . engaged in a "mercantile speculation" . . . and was ruined. . . . He exhibited in the Pennsylvania Academy in 1811–12 and 14.' *History of the Rise and Progress of the Arts of Design in America*, William Dunlap, 1834, New York, Vol. II, pp. 30–31, LC. — Weems probably refers here to the engraving by Tiebout of *Palemon and Lavinia*, which is to be found in the 1805 edition of his *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* (No. 1) (*Bibliography, title 161*) but very likely it was made for, and inserted in an earlier issue, not yet found.

of America. But that will be by first printing *small editions*, and thence deriving nerves for the *larger*. I coud wish to have more than one engraving to carry with me to Virginia. Need I observe that the success of this work will depend *much* on the *complexion of our Specimen Prints?* Don't take the good Samaritan. Tiebout can imitate the good, but not improve the bad. My success with the Bible, from Burlington to this place, is much greater than I expected. Daily I chant my Te Deum. I w^d you were to make some small remittance for me to the Mess^rs. Adams. By sun rise tomorrow I set out for New York. Reserve your fire. The Man of War (the Quarto Bible) will soon be along side. Wou'd God your finances wou'd allow it to go to press before January, so that I might be certain to begin my distribution in May at farthest.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

New Ark Aug. 18. 1800

D^r. Sir. . . . Thank God! I am still successful. And still of opinion that 2,000, or, 2,500 ought to be your Ne plus Ultra; at least for the *first rubber*. On the 2^d you may play a bolder game. An Army with banners woud'nt frighten me so much as w^d piles of unbetroth'd Books. Give me but a challice of Aqua Sancta and I'd as lieve meet the Devil in a garret as a thousand Quarto's without Subscribers.

Mathew Carey is pledg^d thro this Country to do credit to this work; his interest in all subsequent undertakings, is at stake.

What if at the foot of each page, and in lieu of those poor dead & alive things call^d notes, you were to put some of those fine striking sentiments which Locke, Milton, Penn, &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. coud & very willingly woud furnish.[1] For instance, if at the foot of a *page* which declaim^d against the "Vanitas Vanitatum of this life, you were to put, as a

NOTE

"This Life is but a scene of Vanity which quickly passeth away, and there is no happiness here, but what arises from a consciousness of doing well & from the hopes of a better." — Locke

[1] I have never discovered that Carey followed this suggestion.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

NEW YORK, Aug. 20, 1800

Dr. [*left blank.*]

Me voici à nouvelle York!!!

. . . You say you can, without much expence, complete 1000 Cop. Guthrie; and then very seriously add, "Qu'en pensez vous?" My dear fellow, I have already prescrib'd the bark, red Wine and Cold Bath. Let that suffice. Let not the tight jacket embrace the man I love.

You have already 150, or 200 Copies in readiness. It will take me sometime to distribute those. [*In the*] Interim I think I can lay the foundation for a larger distribution. Or at least *ascertain* what you may count on. If I had the Bible proposals to sow about the Country on my return I wd return in three days. Pennington & Gould [1] Booksellers & Binders, New Ark subscribd for 12 Cop. half & half as to quality. They wanted them in *sheets*. I gave the fine at five & the coarse @ 3 Dollars. Give me instructions what I shall do with those Printers &c &c who may wish to purchase. I told you I had allowd to subscribers (Merchants) 7 for the half doz. Isaac Collins & another Printer here are about to print a bible — Nil desperandam I have made a few hours essay of the bible at New York! Success tolerable; I send you ten Dol.

If you cou'd get some Gentleman coming in on one of the stages to bring me on 20 or 30 of the Proposals (including one print, conditions & specimen) done up slightly I wd return at any instant you shoud think adviseable. Leave it to the Gentleman to drop them in N York wherever he may chuse.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

NEW YORK Aug. 22. 1800

Dr. SIR. . . . Your Bible proposition has knock'd up just such a dust here among the Printers as woud a stone if thrown smack into the centre of a Hornet's nest. The whole swarm is out. You hear of nothing here now but printing the Bible. Collins is going to print a bible —

[1] Samuel Pennington and Stephen Gould, owners and publishers of the *Centinel of Freedom*, 1800–1803, Newark, N. J. See *New Jersey Printers of the 18th Century*, William Nelson, in *ProcAAS.*, New Series, Vol. XXI, Part I, p. 40, LC.

Swords is going to print a bible — Hopkins[1] is for a bible — and Durell[2] for a Folio! Everything that can raise a type is going to work upon the Bible. You'd take New York to be the very town of Man-soul, and its printers the veriest saints on earth. The town is prodigious healthy!! You remember what the five righteous w^d^ have done for Sodom. Tis well Tom Paine does'nt hear of all this. He'd [*get drunk?*] an hour sooner than common. What I mean, is, Since there's to be such a competition, 'twere needful to look sharp to the *time* & *manner* of the thing. Collins has been bold to say that no man can print a bible with him. 'Twere well to teach the Friend better, I wait, only for the Bible Proposals. Shall instantly on their advent, set out for Philad^a^. Don't over-exercise yourself this warm Weather. Bile is to be fear'd.

turn over

If you have not already done it, 'twere well to put to press an edition of the Life of Washington in *Duod^o^*. The Likeness, in small, first done by Tiebout will be excellent. Begin at line 8th of 25th page Octavo edition. Begin the 4th half sheet folio 49. I know you will make it a handsome affair.[3]

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad^a^. August 23, 1800.

. . . I am still of opinion that your return is advisable. If you receive no more money than you send me, it is but a sorry Business, and has disappointed me extremely. I could not have supposed it possible that you would travel from Dan to Bersheba & receive only ten or fifteen Dollars, in two or three days.

Do not forget the Chair at Princeton & that at Trenton. . . .

Your friend,

[1] 'George Folliott Hopkins, printer of the "Genius of Liberty" . . . But alas! the "Genius of Liberty" did not long preside over the fortunes of Mr. Hopkins in New Brunswick, which town he soon abandoned for the broader field offered by the City of New York, becoming associated with Noah Webster and others in the management of "The American Minerva," 1793 . . . succeeded by Hopkins & Co., May 15, 1797. . . . [*In*] 1797 Hopkins became the sole publisher, and [*it*] was continued by [*him*] until 1799. . . . He printed many controversial pamphlets, called forth by the bitter political contests of the day.' *New Jersey Printers of the 18th century*, William Nelson, *ProcAAS.*, April, 1911, pp. 34–35.

[2] 'Durell, Wm. bookseller 484 Pearl' *Elliot's Improved New-York Double Directory*, 1812, LC. Many dealings noted in *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS.

[3] Evidently one of Weems' optimistic schemes which failed of fruition, as I have never found such an edition by Carey, nor one with a likeness by Tiebout.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

New York Aug. 25 1800.

Dr. Sir. . . . The people of New York subscribe for no Bibles. They have already an over stock. I found no families (save these solitary 15) with less than a *pair*, some good Quakers had *Seven!* No wonder the New Yorkers are pronounced the most polite & hospitable Cits on the Continent.

I have good reason to believe that a great deal may be made by an Edition of *Miller's* gardening.[1] Mr Willm Coxe,[2] a Gentleman of wealth and influence at Burlington, is confident that he can procure me 100 Subscribers. He thinks, that, next to the bible, it may do more good than any thing you can print. Such a thing is much wanted in this young Country — Think of it.

As to the Bible, don't you think my success has been highly flattering, 258! from Burlington to Newark. One wd infer that, at that rate, the State of New Jersey woud take 1000 Bibles. I hope, at least, that if you thought adviseable for me to visit all the towns Villages and County Courts, I shoud procure 1000 Subscribers. Great things may be done with the Bible. But all depends on the reputation you gain by the 1st edition. Collins publishes proposals this week. There is a Bible Company forming here, perhaps 'tis already organizd However if it please the good God to grant us health, and to you the means to print, i.e. to get out speedily a beautiful edition of the Bible, the Heathen may rage, but their raging shall be in vain.

I shall write no more. Look for me on Friday or Saturday. As to the life of Washington, I wanted it in Duodo. that it might be bound on *our plan;* & sold as a School book. Wou'd God I coud have some to take with me down thro Maryland &c. Be slack of printing & provident of your money, and I trust in one or two years you'll see great things. God make us useful, and above all keep us in his Love.

Volti

[1] Probably either, or both, of the following: *The Gardeners Kalendar, . . .* By Philip Miller, F.R.S. . . . London . . . M DCC LX.; *The Gardener's and Botanist's Dictionary, corrected and newly arranged,* London. lc. Philip Miller, F.R.S., a celebrated gardener and botanist. His *Gardener's Dictionary* and *Gardener's Calendar* went through many editions. See *Bibliotheca Britannica,* aas.

[2] This undoubtedly, from the context, is

I send you an engraving. May it not do well to get this engrav[d] for edition of Washington, alter'd for the Gallant Mercer.[1] I come *Love* to family

L. & F. Vol. 39.

DUMFRIES, Sep. 15, 1800

D[r]. SIR. Henceforth and hereafter, I shall go over my letters to you with as little connection as there is between the hop skip & jump of a grasshopper.

I came down under whip & spur, so, of course I pick[d] up but a trifle. However I p'd D[r] Magruder thirty dollars for you. I got home last night. This afternoon I set out again, and hope by the arrival of the Philad[a] imports to be able to give a good account of the 1,000 Alman[s] I brought down. I sold a few doz on the road. What do you think I got for them? 3/3!!!

If you dont shave Bioren [2] the Jew,
There'll be bad blood 'twixt I and you.

I shoud have written before, but never wish to write unless my letters can smell of money. In perigrinating here to the Southward I always keep my eye on Magruder, Brundige or Grammar. If you choose to give me *orders* to send, I'll send (as when in the northern latitudes) by every other mail, or at least as often as I can convene ten dollars. I have pick[d] up in my flight hither a few Subscribers for our bible. They talk of it as *immensely low*. I hope with your good wishes, but, especially by the divine benediction to get some more, on this excursion. As I dont wish to be drain'd of any more than is necessary of that precious metal you are so fond of receiving, I wish you w[d] pay off hand for the shipments (I mean freitage) you make. There is great want here of Prayer books. Did you send any Prints? Poor little Puss Cat woud

the same William Coxe whose work on fruit trees was printed in 1817 by Carey at Weems' instigation. (*Bibliography, title 252.*)

[1] This is a clear case of that not unusual custom of the time, to change the inscription on a portrait or cut, and use it for an entirely different purpose from its first. Charles Henry Hart detected numberless cases of this sort.

[2] John Bioren, French Hebrew publisher, of 83 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, printed for Weems the second and third 'improved' editions of his *Life of Washington*, as also the 1805 edition of his *Hymen*, the third edition, 1816, of his *God's Revenge against Gambling*, and the 1821 edition of his *God's Revenge against Duelling* (*Bibliography, titles 3, 4, 161, 162, 191, 215*).

fare well I think. W^d God we had a good Duod^o edition of Washington moraliz^d. The moment after my return I shall set out for Petersburg. At the races there I may do something.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad^a. September 15, 1800

. . . I paid 120 Dollars last week for paper purchased for your Books, i.e. Washington &^c. and I had to give Bioren a note for [$]109, for his part of the printing.[1] Adams's note will soon be due. All these things, and *past Experience* of your treatment, depress my spirits very much, and make me very seriously consider on the propriety of M^rs. Carey's advice, not to involve myself with the Bible, the dangers of which are far beyond the profits.

Your ob^t. h^ble. Serv^t.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

Belle Air —
Tuesday. Sept. 16. 1800

D^r Sir. I wrote you yesterday information that on friday I had paid D^r Ninian 30 Dols for you. I am thus far on my way almanac & book selling. I now send you ten dollars the *last* that I shall ever send without an order from you that it shall be at your risk — Dont send too many books yet awhile — My sulky is but small & my Rosinante[2] light — You must never hope for absolution if you charge above 2/6 or at farthest 37½ Cents per doz for Almanacs. Put a curb on Bioren & reject the bag of Judas. There are some *wrongs* which even boil^d corn & eggs on Wednesdays & Fridays can't set *right*.

O that I had a good crib of Historical, Biographical, curious & valuable Anecdotes &c that I might cover our table and feed & fatten the Public Palate and our private purse. But such a poor wandering Christian as I am can do nothing — Dont forget to send my little old book of Scots reels; *'twas borrow^d*.

If I had Paine & the Immortal Mentor I think I coud metamorphose them into good bank notes, by spring. Of those two boxes which Brundige sent you last, one contains the odd sheets of my Death of

[1] Probably one of Bioren's editions of *Washington* — possibly an issue of *Hymen* not yet found.

[2] Rosinante, the lean, raw-boned steed of Don Quixote.

Abel. W^d it not be well to put them into a cheap but flashy dress and send them on? My little hopper drops not a grain but into your Grinders. The Good Lord grant I may see you as rich as a Hebrew Jew.

Love to the family

L. & F. Vol. 30.

DUMFRIES. Octob. 2d 1800

SIR . . . Wou'd God you had come from Morven,[1] rather than from green Erin. Then double sighted and keener eyed than the Lynx you might see how I am employ^d. After a four months absence from the most amiable of Women I returned — to indulge surely, *one month* of relaxation & repose; But, let Ulysses stare! I started again with limbs still stiffend with fatigue, I started again. I carried to Fauquier Courthouse 30 Dol. of books for which I am promis^d (by John Marshall's Brother) [2] to get the money by the 20th instant. there I sold 9 Doz Alm^cs & got 20 Subscrib to Bible. Thence I push'd on thro an arabia petrea, to Leesburg, the sugar loaf mountain, and Frederictown, in order to get your monies from Martin & Tyler. Martin coud not give me a dollar. His tobacco (50 Hogsheads) is in Balt^o. under hatches of the yellow fever. The moment he sells, you will be paid. Tyler had not a dollar, but gave me his *word* that you shoud receive in 2 or 3 weeks from that time (Sep 26) Thus all the monies sent you have been rais^d on Alm^s & my own little shavers. I married 2 couples yesterday. One gave me a dol, and the other 2 dol & 50 Cents, 'twill all be forthcoming. At Frederic town I receiv'd 20 Subscriptions for Bibles — Yesterday morning I got home — At one o clock today I set out for Fredericksburg to distribute Alm^s & get Subscribers. No books have yet come to hand. I see no Columb. Spel^g. books in your lists The Bible Prints are *greatly admir^d*. I coud sell a great many *separately*. On Monday I shall be oblig^d to go all the way to Alexand^a to look for the books that I may be ready for the great races at the Red house on thursday next (the 9th)

[1] Morven, a mountain in Aberdeenshire, Scotland.

[2] Of all the brothers and sisters of John Marshall, the only one who both was born and died in Fauquier is James Markham Marshall, 1764–1848. See *Some Prominent Virginia Families*, Louise Pecquet du Bellet, Vol. II, pp. 470–472, LC.

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DUMFRIES. Octob. 14. 1800

Dr Sir. . . . I went last week to a place calld the Red house where was held a race. But having no books, Almcs & Life of Washington excepted I sold very little more than servd to pay the freight of books from Philadª to Alexandª & thence to Dumfries. My Bible business goes on as favorably, perhaps, more so, than I could have expected. Immense numbers of the Cuts may be sold separately. At what can you let the whole set go? I mean the 17 Cuts? The question is often put to me. and at what cou'd you put them in plain neat frames? If you were to send on 1, or 2, or 3, and in different styles, it might be to your interest.

I have not the shadow of a doubt on my mind of realizing to their fullest extent all the promises I made you in Philadª. But I beg to repeat what I *then repeatedly* told you: that I must have some time. Give me but a little time so that I may get a heavier carriage & cavalry, and there is no fear but I shall work along into a business that will be more profitable to you than you are perhaps aware of. But to fly up like a wood-cock into the clouds of passion and thence pitch plump down into the slough of despond because I do not remit for books un-arrivd, is a disagreeable Je ne scai quoi that I had no reason to expect from you. I do not wish you to incur one single copper more of expence on my account. You have I suppose a 1000 or 2 of Columb.Spelg book, those with the Almanc and ballance of Washington with Mrs. Smith, & Tattoo[1] & Mentor & Paine send on to me. That will cost you very little; and on those with the books already come to hand I will work *might* & *Main*, in conjunction with the Bibles & Guthries. In the little closet up stairs You will find a large bundle of Subscription papers for Washington & Mentor. Send them. If you have any of the Battle of Lexington &c it wou'd be well to send a few. I have good reason to believe that elegant engravings will sell admirably here. One Gentleman in this town, Lawyer Harrison, who has seen the Bible proposals, not only takes a bible but wants a full set of the engravings neatly framd.

Yours Aff.

[1] Part of the sub-title of his own *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* (No. 1).

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DUMFRIES. Octob. 17. 1800

Dr. SIR. The day before yesterday I got to Fredericksburg. The town was in a *Race hurricane*. Nevertheless I sold of Washing. Bachelor & Almc 14 Dol. in a few hours: to which add 200 Dol worth of Fam[*ily*] Bible Subscription. Got home last night time enough to take in a freight of bride cake, bride kisses, Madeira Wine and 4 Dol. with wh I made shift to get home *all a taut* —

This moment with a light heart I go down to Brundige with 15 Dol for you. I shall then set to unpacking and inspecting *your books*. As to the Bible, permit me to whisper in your lug, that you may *assuredly make your fortune by it*. Suppose you make such arrangements with Durell and others, as to retain *but 2,000* for me; there will be an influx into your coffers of 15,00 [*sic*] Dol. *clear* on Mathew Careys a/c, and 15,00 Dol. clear on Parson Weems's a/c. in toto — 3,000 Dol!! and all this in one twelve month. In the name of God, Mr. Carey, when will you learn that temperance, that fortitude which alone is wanting to complete your character, and to render you that Omnis Homo, man of finishd Dignity & Loveliness which my noblest affections long and even languish to contemplate you. *To me*, you have been generous *indeed* — In the 2 edit. of Washington & the Bachelor,[1] your liberality was most Noble — In the books confided to me you have appear'd equally Great & Amiable. Do you suppose that I am not sensible of this? Did I not borrow of my Brother 250 Dol for you? Did I not take out of bank all my little bank stock, for you? Did I not toil from door to door throughout Philada & the towns of Jersey under the scorching summers sun, raising by little pamphlets 1,000 Dol in twelve weeks, for you? And am I not now an Alien from my family, a wanderer on the earth, oftimes cold, wet, dinnerless & weary, to raise money for you? And am I not now a *mere Lazarite*, in consequence of the dishonesty of those numerous Persons with whom (from hopes of selling for you) I entrusted the books you sent me in such distructive quantities, four years ago? And what is my reward? Why, an inundation of letters filld to the utmost folio with *barbarous insinuations* for not sellg books which never came to hand till 4 days ago. Thank God I am now pretty near *incapable* of passion.

[1] In allusion to his own *Hymen* (No. 1).

Believe me, tis not passion when I say I want *not another book*, (save those mention'd in my last) untill our affairs are *all* ballanc'd. I wish much to finish the bible — it will in a short time enable me to owe you nothing but — Love.

Yours aff.

You shall have another remit[*tance*] in a few days.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad^{a}. October 20, 1800.

. . . The Bible is absolutely suspended for the present — perhaps for ever. That will depend on the issues of the Business this winter. If it answers expectations, & produces enough to make me easy, I shall be disposed perhaps to try it in the spring. If this arrangement be disagreeable, you have to charge it to your own folly, & breach of Engagement. You are now 46 days away, and I have rec^{d}. only 40 Dollars. Under such Circumstances, to plunge into the difficulties and embarrasments of such a heavy work, would have given me a fair claim to Bedlam.

If it were of any service to urge arguments on the subject of remitance, I w^{d}. implore you to shield yourself from the bitter execrations which I pour out upon you when I am tortured and distressed for money, & am convinced you withhold it in your hands, through indolence or any other motive.

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Dumfries Octob 22 [*1800*].

D^{r} Sir This is the 4th day of our *district Court*, and the 4th day of a very precious life which I have spent in waiting to see 3 Gentlemen from which I had promise to receive 60 or 70 Dol. They are not yet come. Sure the Devil has left the Jewish Swine and found his way into the American Lawyers. I expect however to remit you something day after tomorrow. Judge Tucker is here. We have had some talk. He has not been at home since you wrote to him: From advice collected from numbers of the best informed, I think there is a *dead certainty* of disposing of *One thousand Copies* of it, at 16 Dol at least. Four Vol^{s} 8°, 800 pages each, on the type of Blackstone's Commentaries, London edit. & plain Law binding. What think you of it, in the way of a *safe subscription business?* Day after tomorrow I shall set out after George Lee, &^{c}. &^{c}. and to vend books. I have been opening two of the Boxes.

The *first* N° (1) on full examination, is erroneous. The invoice charges me with 20 Reading Books — there are but 9. It charges me with no Columb[a] Spell[g] books. I find in it 61 — and in place of 32, there are but 31 Child's Guide.[1] I have open'd no more because containing the same books, they may lie, till I shall be ready for them. I have ten dozen Columbian Spell[g] books engag[d] to one man at Fredericksb[g]. If you coud send me 40 doz. there with *some Mentors*, Paine, Bachelors, Washington & Alm[cs] it wd be well. I go on gloriously with *the Bible*. If you *manage* well, that book (tho but *2,000* copies) will lay the cornerstone and foundation of a fortune for Eliza. Judge Washington spoke to me, t'other day, about co-operating with him in that Great work his Uncle's Memoirs.[2] I trust that God will make me very useful, by and by, to both of our families. I have not sent *one dollar* to M[rs]. Campbell[3] nor to Adams. Don't incur one cent of cost on my a/c. Send only the 5 books above mention'd With Columb Spel[g] book & I'll do all that one small Man & horse can do in such a poor Country as this. Send Cummings on Clock & Watch making[4] — Van Swieten Commentaries.[5] Quincey's Medical Lexicon[6] and Goodwin's tale of the Century.[7] They are bespoke. Wishing yourself & family every felicity I remain

[1] Probably an early edition of *The child's guide, to spelling and reading; or, An attempt to facilitate the progress of small children when first sent to school.* Philadelphia. 4th ed. Printed and sold by M. Carey, 1810, LC. — 'Matthew [*sic*] Carey, the well-known printer of school-books for the children of Philadelphia, made a "Child's Guide to Spelling and Reading" more acceptable by a charming cover of yellow and red striped paper dotted over with little black hearts suggestive of the old Primer rhyme for the letter B:

'"My Book and Heart
Shall never part."'

Forgotten Books of the American Nursery, Rosalie V. Halsey, p. 165, LC.

[2] In spite of this overture from Judge Bushrod Washington, Wayne at first attempted to get subscriptions for John Marshall's *Life of Washington* by his own agency and by that of the postmasters throughout the country. But later Weems did have his authority to get subscriptions for the book, in certain parts of Virginia, and very widely through the Carolinas and Georgia. (See letter of Aug. 1, 1801, and *Bibliography, title 249.*)

[3] Probably Mrs. Robert Campbell, the widow of Weems' creditor.

[4] *The Elements of Clock and Watch-work, Adapted to Practice.* In Two Essays. By Alexander Cumming, Member of the Phil. Soc. Edinb. London: Printed for the Author; . . . MDCCLXVI. BPL.

[5] *The Diseases incident to Armies. with the Method of Cure.* Translated from the Original of Baron Van Swieten, . . . Philadelphia, Printed: . . . Boston: Re-printed . . . M,DCC,LXXVII. LC.

[6] *Lexicon Physico-Medicum: or, A New Medicinal Dictionary,* . . . By John Quincy, M.D. . . . London, . . . M DCC LX VII. LC.

[7] An earlier edition of *St. Leon: A Tale of*

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DUMFRIES, 27 Octob. 1800

SIR, Eight days ago I paid M^r^ B. 15 Dol for you today I pay D^o^. 10 Dol. You say you have receiv^d^ but 40 Dol, I have paid a hundred. M^r^ Brundige's steps, quick or slow, must not be charg'd to me. Give me but orders & I'll remit your monies *in my own letters.*

Two of my District Court Debtors are now in town, I hope to get something from them. I shall set out on monday (the day after tomorrow) to collect from Geo Lee & others. I have not sent one dollar to M^rs^. Campbell nor to Adams, nor to any other Creditor. Your monies shall be remitted to you as fast as I can get them. I long to breathe the air of Liberty, and am therefore constantly extending my wishes to that happy moment when I shall owe you nothing. Ergo, I wish to receive no more books (the Mentors, Bachelors, Washingtons, Paine's Almanacs, & if you think proper 1,000 Columbian Spell^g^ books *excepted*) until those on hand are sold. I still go on with the Bible. S^t^. George Tucker's book, the more I think of it, rises in its importance. One thousand subscribers might certainly be obtain'd at 16 dol each. The cost to you w'd not perhaps exceed 7 Dol. Bibles, & other heavy octavo & Quarto editions of *popular books* woud soon make a Man's fortune, and *without any risk!!!* Woud God that in the days of Goldsmith we had been wise! We might now be wealthy. Neat editions of 3 or 4 large saleable works will answer our purpose. There is an Academy here. They want a doz Copies of Fenning,[1] Ashe,[2] Gough's Arithmetic [3] and Euclid.

the Sixteenth Century, by William Godwin . . . London: . . . 1831, LC., which was probably the Alexandria (Va.) edition noted in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States, in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[1] *The American Youth's Instructor; or, a new and easy guide to Practical Arithmetic*, by Daniel Fenning. . . . Dover, New-Hampshire: . . . 1795, LC.

[2] Probably *Grammatical Institutes: or, an easy Introduction to Dr. Lowth's English Grammar:* By John Ash, LL.D. . . . Philadelphia: M, DCC, LXXXVIII. LC. — *Ad.* 'New Books Just Received at the office of the Oracle . . . Ash's Grammar 27 cents. . . .' *Oracle of Dauphin* (Harrisburg, Pa.), Sept. 22, 1804, PSTL.

[3] *A Treatise of Arithmetic* . . . by John Gough . . . Philadelphia: . . . 1788. LC.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. Oct. 30, 1800.

Sir, . . . You are extremely deceived when you suppose that I complain of you for not sending money for Books not yet rec[d]. —. If you really entertained such an opinion of me, you must regard me as very unjust and irrational. I expected no such thing. But I expected, and I think with reason, that every dollar you rec[d]. on your journey homeward should be remitted to me as fast as it came to hand. . . .

This, on due reflexion, determines me to drop the Bible; For the dilemma was — you could not, or you would not remit more abundantly. In either case, it would have been insanity to have encountered the very heavy Expenses of the Bible, which could not have failed to crush me.

After a lapse of weeks, I bless heaven for this determination. Nothing could have resulted from performance but disgrace and ruin.

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Annapolis. Nov 8, 1800.

Sir. I have monies for you, but, as you will not give me orders to send, I shall wait till I can come up with some one or other of my carrying places — I go on well with the Bible. I have told you *thrice*, permit me a *4[th] time* to assure you that the Bible business duly attended to will make our fortunes. I can't think of the Dumfries District Court with patience. Oh 'twas a damnable vexation & trial to me. To have lost 12 days in waiting for 3 unfeeling unprincipled Rascals and after all to have been treat'd as Rascals generally treat their friends. I have been very successful at this place. I brought with me the last of the 3[d] edition of Washington. I sold them all in 20 minutes, very sorry am I that we have not a 4[th] edition. The Bachelor sold well. The Assembly is sitting & will I hope purchase up a parcel of *your books* which I have just deposited with Frederic & Sam[l] Green Printers of this place. They are & have been for a long time Printers to the State. Men of good character & property, also keepers of the post office at this place. They have a handsome room on the main street, and are willing to take an Assortment of your books. NB There is not a book store in the whole town. But more of this in the *spring*. — Let me once more tell you

that a fortune may be made by directing me to give my *whole attention* to subscription & distribution of Large & Valuable Works.

Think of Tucker.

Yours respectfully

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad^{a}. Nov. 15, 1800.

. . . In the name of the maker of heaven & earth, and by all your hopes of happiness, I conjure you to lay your hand on your heart, and answer to yourself, have I deserved the treatment I experience from you? Is this a return for the almost unlimited confidence I have placed in you? After all the money I advanced for your works, the two notes [*in*] favour of Adams, and the engagements I have entered into for your binding, &^{c}. your remittances do not amount to 12 Dollars per day. What a desperate situation, indeed, should I have been in, had I plunged further into the bible! You boast of your success with that work. It is, believe me, time entirely thrown away. For I value my peace of mind too much — what do I say — peace of mind — my establishment in Business w^{d} be absolutely at stake, to venture on such an undertaking with a man who pays no more attention to his solemn engagements than to the whistling winds.

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Dumfries. Nov. 17. 1800

D^{r} Sir. This moment I pay you fifty Dol. pr M^{r}. Brundige. I have been with Lee. Not a Dollar did he shew!!! Shall assuredly have the whole sum this Winter — *that's his sacred promise.* Send me not another book except my own, i.e. the residue of Washington, Bachelor, Mentor & Paine. For the two latter I'll get out subscriptions incontinently, and send you the money. Tis in your power to do as you like, but unless you print or engage of Davis 1000 or 1500 Cop of Bible I shall not be able to pay you as soon as I wish. I tell you as I have told you already a thousand times, that the *Quarto Bible business* (I allude not to *this first little spurt*) duly attended to w^{d} make a handsome fortune for *one at* least of your little Daughters. The reason I did not remit you monies immediately on my passage down, was, I did not sell anything of account; and the reason of that again, was, I had scarcely any thing with me but

the Bachelors, the Life of Washington and *One thousand Almanacs*. Of this last article I am as certain as you can be that you have four fingers and a thumb on your hand. I took an accurate account of them both in putting them into my trunk & in vending them. Dont send me another book untill I get out of your debt, then light as a Free Man and buoyant as friendship & Zeal can make me, I shall fall to work and be happy. I live but to urge on the Great Work of Co-operating with the Author of all good in diffusing Light Love and Bliss among his Rational Family on earth. But for this I w^{d} instantly wholesale my books & quit the business forever. It were better, infinitely better than lead such a dangerous miserable life as I do now, and after all get nothing but suspicion and scolding, and that too from a Man whom I fain w^{d} like very heartily. Setting aside 12 or 1500 Almanacs, I have not yet sold 20 Dol of your books. Waiting here at the district court & trott^{g} about after Lee & Martin, have been a great hindrance to me.

The greatest part of the monies sent you have been from my own little stock. Send me *my* books & I'll do all that can be done by one little horse & Man

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DUMF. Nov. 26, 1800

D^{r} SIR. Last Tuesday I paid Brundige 50 Dol. Today (Wednesday) I send you *20* pr Brundige. Of all the monies hitherto sent you, not 20 dol have been rais'd on your books *Alm^{cs} excepted*. Washington, the Bachelor & Surplice fees have done all; and yet I might as soon borrow a ton of brimstone from the Devil as get my Washingtons, Bachelors & other books (Mentor & Paine) from you. If I had Mentor & Paine I w'd instantly open subscript. papers and try to push them off this winter. But I can't get 'em!! Nor can I get Washington & Bachelor tho they be the best ammunition I ever had in my cartouch box yet. Everything goes wrong. I ought to have had the Alm^{cs} here 2 months ago, but, setting aside the *few* pr boxes first sent to Alexandria, I can't lay eyes on an Almanac. Tis to no purpose to have trumps in ones hands if they be not well play^{d}; and by the Lord Hoyle if you go on at this rate I shall soon be done over. Now I shall have to set out on Monday morning for Richmond (100 miles) a road on which I coud

sow 1000 Almanacs *at least*, and yet as you (I'll not charge the Devil) will have it, I have not a single Almanac to bless myself withal; and yet I'll engage I shall not have trotted 20 miles before there'll be a storm of letters after me reminding me of old times. Prithee dont dream of sending me another book (my own & some Columbian Spell[gs] excepted). I shall do all I can for you

and for your M. L. Weems

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. Nov. 27, 1800.

. . . The 4[th] of this month, you wrote me you had money for me — and at length this day I rec[d]. 50 Dollars on your acc[t]. from M[r]. Brundige. In the intermediate time, my credit might have been destroyed for want of that sum. But what w[d] you care? You would talk as fluently as ever of the beauty of virtue, of honour, honesty & gratitude — at a time when a man with a large family, was absolutely ruined by his confidence in you.

You once said, if you did not believe in the Existence of a God, still interest w[d]. make you just toward me. O God of Justice! how little such declarations cost you! What fatal consequences have followed from my . . . [*illegible*] dependence on them! How many dreadful days and nights have you caused me! More, by heaven! than all the untold circumstances of my life united.

I advise you to suspend your attempt at procuring subscribers for the Bible; for I would as soon set my property on fire, as engage in such a work with such remittances as you make. You have not as yet sent me 2 Dollars per day since your departure; yet hardly a day passes without my being obliged to pay away for you to some person or other.

The private advantage & public usefulness that you might produce by a moderate degree of attention to your Engagements, are all annihilated. You owe it to your want of punctuality — and you are, as you have been for years, a scourge to

yours, &[c]. O[b].

L. & F.

Philad[a]. November 28, 1800.

. . . To send you any Mentors or Phil[*anthropists*] or Blairs is out of the question. I cannot afford to pay your Bookbinders. It is enough for me to pay my own. I am already responsible for too much on your

acc^{t}. I am constantly assailed by paper-makers, printers, engravers, binders, &^{c}. who have concocted your works. And your conduct renders it impossible for me to place any dependance on you. It is impossible you can have spent nearly three months from this, & not rec^{d}. vastly more than the shabby sums you have remitted me.

When you arrived here, I felt disposed to bury in eternal oblivion, the numerous disappointments & vexations you have caused me, & to turn all my property & all my exertions into such a channel as w^{d} leave them at your commands. I am ready to engage in works of magnitude, a few of which w^{d}. realize a fortune for you. And the allowance I first offered to make, was calculated to make Avarice blush to accept. . . .

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DUMF. Dec. 1. 1800.

D^{r}. SIR. . . . You said that if the dark cloud sh^{d} gather on the brow of M^{rs}. Campbell, you w^{d} play the Lightening rod for me. I am poor, now, tis true, but the time may come when it may be well for those who remember'd me in my day of small things. I have not sent a dollar to M^{rs}. C. or to Adams. If you cou'd make some arrangement with Adams, tho but in *the small way*, perhaps you may be no loser by it in the long run.

Tomorrow I set out with a large Cargo, large for a little horse & sulky! O that I had but a Jersey Stage and a couple of good strong horses!! I shoud soon do something. You will not fail to send my Washington, Bachelor, Paine & Mentor. I will do a great deal with those books. Tomorrow I say I set out for Richmond, Norfolk, &^{c}. &^{c}. God prosper me! I need it for you have put a great many Alm^{cs} on me. I hope I shall vend the whole, but remember I bespoke all along 6.000. I shall remit as I go along. No Dumfries for me short of five weeks hence. I believe I shall call on Judge Tucker Williamsb^{g}. As to the Bible, if you love your family, continue to let me have 1.000 copies at least. Believe me M^{r} Carey, I can make a fortune for any man who will give proper support to my activity and perseverance in subscriptioneer^{g} for Large works. For heaven's sake send me (with Bachelors &c.) my old Collection of Scots Reels, twas lent to me & the owner is clamorous. Now dont forget. Perhaps it is with the artist with whom you talk^{d} about engraving music.

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BOWLING GREEN, Dec. 4. [*1800*].

Dr SIR. Three days ago I sent you 10 Now send you 20 Dol. dont forget the man who never forgets you. I allude to Mrs. Campbell and Sam & J. Adams. No more Almanacs — yesterday I sold 400 No more books except my own

Adieu

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RICHMOND. Dec. 9th 1800

Dr. SIR. Your intemperate passion will injure us both. After a long ride of 160 miles I arrivd at place of date [*to*] put your books (consignd to Mr. Pollard) in motion. He told me he was sorry to inform that he had orders to hold them until farther orders from you. Sensible how much you wd be hurt by losing sale of your Almanacs I told Mr Pollard, I wd take the Alms and pay as I took them, he declind it, saying that if the other books shd prove deficient, he might be blamd. I was silent — I can't do impossibilities, therefore am *not troubled;* Others wd be hurt, but sufferance is the badge of my tribe. Tomorrow I set off home again.

Yours respectfully

NB. Last Wednesday I sent you from Bowling Green 20 Dol,
I now send you 30
50

I wish you wd do something in the affair of Campbell & Adams. Go on with the family Bible and you and I will be even next year. After that Liberty & Equality forever — I cou'd cross the Potomac, wide as it is; and in due season, I shall cross the Styx, But a hair-wide line, drawn by the nib of your imprudent goose-quill, is utterly impassable.

Adieu

[FROM CAREY] *L. & F.*

PHILADa. Decr. 11, 1800.

SIR— . . . You must certainly have meant a new mockery on my folly, when you hinted your expectations that I should make any further payment to Messrs. Adams or advance any money to Mrs. Campbell. If you were serious, which, by the way, I can hardly believe, it was a degree of

confidence, of which, I have met with few Examples. — What! You are above three months away, & have not sent me quite two hundred Dollars — and I have paid Adams already 100 — & for your Book-binding, &c. some hundreds more, yet you have the modesty to expect me to make further advances. No, sir you have no right [*to*] count upon my past folly or madness. Would to heaven, I had known in time the miserable termination of my hopes from you, and I wd. as soon have thrown the money into the fire, as have given you the notes for Adams. I have regretted that step only once — and that has been ever since I took it. . . . You have repeatedly desired to have your Washington, Batchelor [*sic*], &c. forwarded to you. What you mean by this, I do not understand. Of Washington, there were a few in the hands of Mrs. Smith, which I have kept, & credited you for. Of the Bachelor, I have not a copy belonging to you. . . .

PS. As the thousand copies of the Common prayer Book were shipped & hourly expected, I should have no objection to forward you a subscription paper; & send the Books in the spring to Mr. Brundige, to be delivered to you, 50 or 100 at a time.

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RICHMOND. Dec. 11. 1800

Dr SIR, . . . [*A list of sums.*] These *last ten* were raised from the sale of Washington & Bachelor. Shou'd have set out today, but was detaind by accidental fracture of one of my sulky shafts.

I cou'd have sold numbers of Almanacs today, but cou'd not get them — Happily for me, Mr Pollard has long known me [*as*] an *honest* hard working man. Ergo your Veto, tho it surprisd him, has not, I believe, injured me much. I guess so, from this circumstance; he is one of a very Wealthy and Respectable Board who have applied to me and Offer'd me a commission to cooperate with them in a very important piece of business. Mutual dissatisfaction must give rise to the mutual wish of separation. I have never ceas'd to feel a very grateful sense of your Politeness and Hospitality; and heaven can attest that my exertions have been correspondent to my feelings, but since they cannot please, and since, in return for all my fatigue and danger, I meet with nothing but everlasting injury & insult, I must beg to quit the business. I shall go on to do the best with your books now in my possession, but will never receive another. If you do not wish to go on with the Bible,

I have but to request that you w^d^ permit me to engage 500 Copies, of the Printers, New York. My profits arising from that small number, will suffice, with monies arising from other sources, to pay next summer your claims against me.

Wishing, sincerely wishing, for your sake and for the sake of your family, that you may be more fortunate in the man whom you next chuse as your itinerant Bibliopolist, I remain,

D^r^ Sir your unchangeable
Friend M. L. WEEMS.

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DUMFRIES Decemb. 17. 1800

SIR. . . . The dissolution of our business is at hand; for with all my, I will not say, *sang froid*, but *friendship* for you, I can stand such treatment and such letters no longer. However, before I shake hands with a man for whom my heart has often felt that joy which a man feels at thought of a beloved brother, permit me to show you, "veluti in speculo," the Injustice & Cruelty of your late conduct to me. I say your *late* conduct, for let eternal night impenetrable as the gloom of hell, cover, even from my thought, that, Mathew Carey who, in 1800, received me at his house with such fraternal hospitality and treated me with such princely Generosity, did in 1796 bring me down to the very verge of perdition. No, let me talk of the things that are *present.* In 1800 we got the Bible under way. I calculated on it as on a mine of wealth more delectable to me than the Virgin Silver of Potosi. I knew it w^d^ cost you much. I said in all my letters from the Northward, "Mr Carey avoid expence; you will soon be long side the old Man of War (the Bible) she will call for all your ammunition." You must remember this. Well, I told you that a never failing source of monies, of *large monies* might be open^d^, in a *cautious distribution* of books among honest Merchants; but that this w'd require time; I even recollect to have said it *w^d^ take six or twelve months;* for I well know that my little horse & sulky cou^d^ progress but slowly, as also that the Merchants w^d^ expect some little time to vend & collect. All this was both express^d^ and understood. Guess then my astonishment, my confusion, on

receiving letters from you, full of invective & declamation against me, full of solemn appeals to God against me for not sending you monies! and all this, so help me God, before your books were come to hand!!! My want of Gratitude, my want of honor, and of every other Virtue, was the theme of every letter. Yes verily, and at the very moment when I had but 1000 of your Almanacs, and had actually remitted you twice their amount, taken from my own little gatherings *from other quarters!!!* And what do you think were my feelings when the same letter that informd of books sent to Richmond, informd that they were all under the hatches of your Veto!!! And why? Why because I did not send you *hundreds of dollars* for books not yet arrived, and which if arrivd wd have requird several weeks to distribute, and still more to sell & collect. And what do you suppose were my feelings on receiving the most abusive letters for not sending you large monies, when by the God of truth, the most saleable of your books (the Almanacs & Columb. Spellg book) did not arrive until the *1st day of December!* On that very morning I went to *packing*, and the morning followg set out with 1200 Almanacs & 150 Spell'g books for Falmouth, Fredericksburg, &c. &c. to Richmond. By the time I got to R. I had disposd of my Cargo (making 75 Dol now sent to you) and meant to push the Almanacs (sent to Pollard) thro the Richmond, Petersburg & Norfolk markets. And what do you suppose were my feelings on finding that I was not permitted to touch *one of them!* but was obligd to return with ignominy & loss. To tell you of my chagrin and mortification, of my sufferings, by cold, fatigue, expence & absence from my family, were to tell you nothing, for you are not in the habit of thinkg of these things. But to cut the matter short. If it be your intention to go on in this way, to form *one plan*, and to act upon another, i.e. to send Alms for me to sell & then to forbid me to sell them, to allow time to deposit books for sale, and then to importune & insult me as tho they were already sold; I say if this be your design, permit me to assure you that I shall be glad to be quit of the business. You have but to desire Mr. Brundige to call on me for your books. From your Statement now in my hand I ow'd you but 14 or 1500 Dollars. I have since paid you nearly 300 (last week p'd Pleasants 3 Cop. Guthrie with Atlasses) I shall shortly return 4 or 500 Dol of other books, so that if you chuse to take back the Cargo last sent (I mean all this Autumn &

Winter) I shall soon annihilate all my debt to you. I tell you candidly rather than receive one more letter replete with such unmerited abuse, I w^d gladly quit your service forever. Knowing that if the Almanacs were not sold in a certain time they woud hardly be sold at all, I have paid so much attention to them since *I got them*. If you shoud throw those Alman. at Richmond, or any of them, into my hands, I shall do what I can for you, but hope that you will not think me chargeable for them, as you have all along kept them out of my power to sell, at least in the season. —

Yours respectfully,

Send me the Bachelor & Washington

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad^a. Dec^r. 18, 1800.

. . . But it is necessary to make some arrangment towards winding up our a^ccts. — I wish to have some acknowledgment for the debt so long due me. I am willing to allow a reasonable time, but I must have some evidence of the debt, to serve in case of death or accident, on either side. On this subject, I desire a specific and speedy answer.

I regret that M^r. Pollard did not allow you to take out the almanacks. There are too many quite to lose totally. Should this reach you in Richmond, I wish them to be immediately taken out, and disposed of. I have already lost enough, & suffered sufficient injury by our Connexion — and am desirous to avoid any addition to it.

As to the Bibles in New York, you are perfectly [*free?*] to engage as many of them as you see fit. I hope you will employ the profits of the work, as you promised, to pay what you owe me.

You talk of "everlasting injury and insult." God knows how severe the provocation you have given me — what cruel & undeserved misery you have caused me. . . .

Philad^a. Dec^r. 23, 1800.

. . . I am perfectly & sovereignly indifferent whether or not we have any further dealings. Our past intercourse has produced little else to me than disappointment and Embarrassment.

But as the Almanacks now at Richmond are liable to become entirely useless, unless immediately disposed of, I think you ought to

undertake the sale of them. This letter, if produced to M^r. Pollard would be sufficient warrant to him for the delivery of them to you.

Yours, &^c.

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DUMF. Dec. 29. 1800

SIR. . . . I have always been very scary about our monies. And as I do not know what accidents might catch hold of that money, were I to order it one way or tother, I wish you w^d write to Mr. Alexander to send it on to yourself. Charles is one of the first Characters in America.[1] That little note of his, which Mr. Brundige sent you day before yesterday, inclos'd in a letter to him *post paid*, will be the thing —. I set off in three days, deep & dreadful as the roads are, to do something or other, God willing.

I shall very cheerfully give any pledge that's reasonable as to the books & monies for which I owe you.

On my return I will do it.

In a few days I shall remit; since my 20 Dol. 4 days ago; I have not been out.

Desire Mr. Alexander to make it 160 Dol & I will make up to him the odds when I shall next be in Alexandria.

Write not to me under three weeks —

[1] Charles Alexander of Virginia, one of the first two graduates, B.A., from St. John's College, Annapolis, Nov. 21, 1793. See *The Ancient City. A History of Annapolis, in Maryland 1640–1887*, Elihu S. Riley, Annapolis, 1887, p. 210, LC. — *Ad.* 'I will lease, with a general warranty, forever sundry well situated quarter-acre lots within and adjacent to the Town of Alexandria, C. Alexander, jun. May 7, 1799.' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* (Virginia), May 7, 1799, AAS.

Panting time toils after him in vain. — SAMUEL JOHNSON.

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DUMFRIES Jany 5. 1801.

SIR. Unavoidable impediments have delay[d] me a few days. But now I set out in deadliest Winter, when even Russian Bears are glad to tree themselves, to sell your books. Perhaps I shall go as far as Richmond, Petersb[g], Norfolk &c. &c. In that case I shall do w[t] I can for your Almanacs. I send you ten dollars the amount of three wedding fees. — I shall not be back under four weeks.

Your unkindness, (in various shapes) has added much to my burden of troubles. But I will not yet curse the day I was born, for the Season of my troubles shall not last long.

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DUMFRIES. Jany. 22. 1801.

SIR. Got back last night — Am much grieved to find that M[r]. Ch[s] Alexander did not send on the money; had you, as I requested, sent on his note to me, all w[d] have been well. However I shall write to him by this nights mail, to remit it to me. On Monday or Tuesday 'twill be on the way to you. For this fortnight past I have been out essaying the sale of Novels &c I find the prospect very flattering. The roads so horribly bad that, tho gone a fortnight, I had but 5 or 6 days chance to sell (being oblig'd to *return* in the *same track*) and yet in those 5 or 6 days I sold 70 dollars worth. But of these 70 Dol. I was oblig[d] to pay away 40 to a Mr. John Matthews[1] on Rappahanoc. I had plac[d] with him a good while ago a stout parcel of your Miscellanious books. After a reasonable time I call[d] on him. Thinking he had sold about 100 Dol. worth, he paid me to that tune. But on comparing notes we found he

[1] Innumerable references to John Matthews, but not all were consulted. Bills were for paper supplies almost entirely. *Mathew Carey Account Books.*

had overpaid me 40 Dol. I had therefore to dowse the 40 & take back the unsold which are Viz.

3 Goldsmith's An Nature
6 Select Plays [1] } handsome Duod^os bound &c.
1 Select farce }
1 Mirror 2 Vol.[2]
2 Miscellaneous works. Duod^o bound &c.
2 English Hermit.
1 American Theatre — 2 Vol [1]
2 American Remembrancer — 3 Vol.[3]
2 Columbian Music Duod^o bound &c [4]
2 Presidents Message
1 Elements of Morality —
11 Fair Circassian [5]
11 Female policy detected

[1] *Select Plays from Celebrated Authors; Performed at the Principal Theatres in the United States of America. Volume fourth. Containing, The Gamester, Douglas, The Mourning Bride, The orphan; or, Unhappy Marriage*, Baltimore: Printed and Sold, by Warner & Hanna, 1803, NYHS. — Judging by the following advertisement, *Select Plays* and *American Theatre* evidently refer to the same work: 'Proposals by Warner & Hanna for publishing by subscription, Six Volumes of Select Plays to be entitled the American Theatre.' *Maryland Herald & Elizabeth-Town Weekly Advertiser*, Sept. 17, 1801, MdHS. Though this is the earliest advertisement that I have noted, since the edition was issued over so long a period of time, it is probable that one or more volumes were already being advertised at the date of this letter. The sixth and last volume, with complete sets was advertised in the *Virginia Argus*, Mar. 16, 1805, AAS. — This work should not be confused with William Dunlap's *History of the American Theatre*, which was not published until 1832.

[2] *The Mirror . . . A Periodical Paper, Published at Edinburgh in the Years 1779 and 1780.* In Two Volumes Philadelphia: . . . Spotswood . . . & Johnson . . . MDCCXCIII. LC.

[3] *The American Remembrancer: . . . [concerning John Jay's Treaty with Great Britain] . . .* Philadelphia: . . . Mathew Carey . . . 1795. (3 vols.) LC. See note 3, p. 163.

[4] Perhaps one of the following: *Columbian and European Harmony, or Bridgewater Collection of Sacred Music.* By Bartholomew Brown, and others; *Columbian Repository of Sacred Harmony, including the whole of Dr. Watts' Psalms and Hymns, to each of which a tune is adapted*, by S. Holyoke. Listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC. — Or Weems may merely have been misquoting *The Columbian Muse. A Selection of American Poetry, from various authors of Established Reputation.* New York: Printed by J. Carey, for Mathew Carey, Philadelphia. 1794. NYPL.

[5] *The Fair Circassian, A Dramatic Performance . . .* London . . . MDCCXXIX. LC.

10 Features of Jays treaty [1]
6 Robbers — a Tragedy [2]
6 Examination of the treaty — [3]
6 Political progress of Britain — [4]
10 Brothers prophecies — [5]
2 Religious Courtship Duod° bound &c.[6]

I have these books with M^r. Brundige. I can sell Goldsmith for you, no doubt. — In such books as I order myself, I'm seldom deceiv^d. Those we agreed on in the summer, sell well; as Braken,[7] Jest book,[8] Charlotte Temple [9] &c. Charlotte is too high, 66½ cents is too high, for ½ bound &

[1] *Features of Mr. Jay's Treaty. . . .* [*Alexander James Dallas*] Philadelphia: . . . Mathew Carey. 1795. LC. In Duane pamphlets, Vol. 16, No. 4.

[2] A translation of Schiller's play, *The Robbers.* — *Ad.* '. . . Schiller's Tragedy of the Robbers having been lately printed in this city, the following judicious and elegant criticism on that performance, by Mr. Mackenzie, will, we presume, be highly gratifying to our readers. . . .' *The New-York Magazine; or Literary Repository*, Mar., 1794, Vol. 5, p. 139, NYHS.

[3] *Examination of the Treaty . . . between the United States and Great Britain, . . .* By Cato. [*Robert K. Livingston.*] Re-published from the *Argus*, by Thomas Greenleaf, 1795. LC. — No record in the LC. of Carey's having published this separately, but he included it in the *American Remembrancer* under the title, '*Observations on Mr. Jay's Treaty.*' See note 3, p. 162.

[4] *The Political Progress of Britain: . . .* Part First. [*James Thomson Callender*] . . . Philadelphia: . . . 1795. LC.

[5] *A Revealed Knowledge of the Prophecies and Times. . . .* Richard Brothers Philadelphia: Printed for Robert Campbell, . . . 1795. LC. The LC. has also two Philadelphia editions for F. & R. Bailey, 1795 and 1798.

[6] Presumably an earlier edition of 'Religious Courtship; or Discourses on the necessity of marrying Religious Husbands and Wives only [*By Daniel Defoe*], 75 cents *N. York*, 1811' Listed in *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 2783, LC.

[7] Second American Edition. *Farriery Improved, Or, A Complete Treatise on the Art of Farriery . . .* By Henry Bracken, M.D. Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, No. 118 Market street. By Stephen C. Ustick. Jan. 11, 1798. NYPL.

[8] *The American Jest Book; containing a choice selection of jests, anecdotes, bonmots, stories, &c.* Harrisburgh: Printed for Mathew Carey. M.DCC.XCVI. LC. Bound with *The Merry Fellow's Companion; or American Jest Book, containing a choice selection of Anecdotes, Bon mots, jests, repartees, stories, &c. &c.* Printed at Harrisburgh, by John Wyeth, for Mathew Carey, of Philadelphia. 1797. LC. — 'This scarce book is one of the earliest publications of its kind in the United States.' Sabin.

[9] *Charlotte Temple. A Tale of Truth. By Mrs. Rowson, . . .* Fifth American Edition. Harrisburgh, Pennsyl. Printed for Mathew Carey of Philadelphia, By John Wyeth. 1802. LC. (The LC. has also a 1794 edition, printed by D. Humphreys for M. Carey.) — In 1812 Carey wrote to Mrs. Rowson: 'Charlotte Temple is by far the most popular & in my opinion the most useful novel ever published in this country and probably not inferior to any published in England. . . . It may afford you great gratification to know that the sales of Charlotte Temple exceed those of any of the most celebrated novels that ever appeared in England. I think the number disposed of must far exceed 50,000 copies and the sale still continues.' L. & F.

thin duod° without frontispiece. The doz. I took with me on last tack, I retail[d] at 3 / 9 Virginia Currency (No cents here) and wholesaled at 3 / 3.

The people complain about Noah Webster[1] and grumble to give me so much for him as for the Columbian Spel book. This moment sold a doz. at 12 /. Virginia C. The few Columbian Spell[g] books sent, are gone. Surely you ought to put Noah at the same with the Columbian Spl'g book. This moment shall pay — 30 Dol On Monday I hope to pay 159 The People in this & the Neighbour[g] Parish have subscrib'd for this year a quant[*um*]. suf[*ficit*]. to pay off your Demand against

M. L. Weems

turn

If you were to order matters so with M[rs]. Campbell as to pay the interest of what I owe, I w[d] remit all to you.

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Tuesday. Jany 27[th]. 1801.

Sir. On friday I sent you — 30 Dol

Today, Tuesday, I send — 20 d° rais'd by vending Noah Webster's Spell[g] Book at 12/ Virg[*inia currency*] i, e, 2 dol pr doz, (If I mistake not some have told me that they get them at Baltimore @ 12/6 that currency) and American Preceptor at 2/4 pr half dozen. The Merchant, I thought, ought to have a profit. I suppose I coud wholesale a great many Am. Preceptor & N. Websters Spel[g] book, the former at 2/4 pr doz, & the latter @ 15[d] Philad[a] currency. My hopes were coming up fresh and fair as the flowers of Spring, but this affair of the Bible has nipp[d] them in the bud. But I hope kind heaven "the embryo blossom will save." So there's an end. As to the prayer books, they are the very books I delight to sell. Several of your books are mark[d] abundantly reasonable. Others abundantly the reverse. Your American Jest book with a funny cut @ 25 Cents; Arundle[2] & Constantia de Valmont,[3] *scarcely* larger & *without cuts*, 40 Cents!!!

[1] Webster's *Spelling Book*, which met, throughout the South, a very successful competitor in Carey's *Columbian Spelling Book*.

[2] *Arundel. By The author of the Observer.* Vol. I 2 vols. London: . . . M. DCC. LXXXIX. HU. (Consisting of a series of letters.)

[3] *Constantia De Valmont.* A Novel. By Harriet Lee. . . . Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey. . . . 1799. LC.

"Come, Jack, let's turn in here into PRITCHARDS book store and metamorphose a bank note or two." "No, quoth Jack, I'll be *damn'd* if I do, for there's a little travelg Priest that visits our Court house every two or three months, and brings us books five and twenty pr Cent cheaper than one can buy of these damn'd Bookselling Jews about here!!!"

There you see, give that *wind*, and my fortune is made, and made in the very way that my Soul delighteth in, even in circulating good books. But, while a Gentleman is tumbling over my books; to hear another call out "Pshaw! come along, what the Devil are you loitering there for? Dont you know we are going to Richmond next week where we can buy books fifty pr Cent cheaper than from any of these speculating Parsons." Oh! My God! from such blasting and Mildew preserve my tender hopes! There is certainly a wide difference between a Novel & a Spelg book; but no eloquence of mortal tongue can ever satisfy a man to give 40 Cents for Arundel without Cut or Frontispiece, when he gives but 12d apiece pr doz. for your beautiful Columbian Spelg book with *74 Metal Cuts* & *three times the Contents of t'other!!!* I tell you candidly, I had rather not sell books than sell them for such a canker as imputation of extortion. "Light profits make heavy purses." A great deal more wd have been done in these books, had it not been for those unlucky, late-coming Almanacs. I set out tomorrow morning. The roads, for badness, exceed description. I shall be gone a fortnight.

But shall (Deo Volente) write & remit

The People rage about the Almanc. No Weather in them!

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

PHILADa. January 27, 1801.

Notwithstanding all that has passed, I am willing to renew our Connexion once more, and to extend it as far as we ever contemplated, provided you perform your part, as to remittances. This is the sine qua non. All the elegant tropes & figures which you can scatter so plentifully through your letters, will pay no notes. . . .

I hereby empower you to demand & to receive the Books at Richmond from Mr Pollard or Mr. Pleasants. Why have you not gone for the Almanacks? All my profits centre there. I intend to do an elegant & larger almanack for next year. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.
DUMF. Feb. [?] 1801

SIR. You say — "Notwithstanding all that has pass^{d} I am willing to renew our connexion & to extend it as far as we ever contemplated." I shall make no comment on that "*Notwithstanding all that has pass^{d}*" — for it is a mere pop-gun, and carries no shot to reach me. My own conscience tells me (and with a smile too that I w^{d} not give for all your books) that I am the same *yesterday and today* and have never knowingly wrong^{d} you of a penny. To this delicious truth your own heart must bear me honorable attestation. As to *renewal of connexion* and its quaqua versum extent, I thank you for the offer: but a regard to the salvation of my family bids me drop a word or two which I hope you will read without a frown or bite of the nether lip. To the point, unless you mean to set me up a Candidate for perdition, talk not to me about a 25 pr Cent Commission. To render you important service, I must be sell^{g} you books at 50 or 100 places at the same time. Well, at whose risk? Why, (infandum Oh Carey Jubes *renovare* dolorim) at *mine*. Now, suppose that of my 25 I give 15 pr Cent (you give 16 1/3) there remain but 10 pr Cent for me. Now, if one in 10 of my Deputies prove a Scoundrel, I make nothing by my other 9 tho honest as the sun. Nay on deducting horse & carriage, feed & ferriage tare and tret and a 1000 other Cankerous expences, I *lose sadly*. But, in addition to this horrid risk of finding 9 honest men for one rogue, what if one in 10 sh'd run off to Kentucky, or come out at the little end of the horn, or die & leave my books scatter^{d} among Widows & Executors??? But I need say no more. Already you see me like poor Sisyphus heaving up hill, a reluctant ponderous stone that every moment threatens my destruction. No, 25 pr Cent will never do. 33 1/3 may. On that, I might limp off, and perhaps not mortally wounded, even tho one Deputy in 6 sh'd give me an insidious shot. And on that, I might wholesale your books to the merchants & yet make a little. In one word M^{r} Carey if I coud live safely & handsomely by vending your books at 25 pr Cent, gladly w^{d} I do it, but in the *very nature of things*, it is impossible, and I don't wish to go to the Devil with my eyes open. Nor can I think *you* wish me there yet, it might cause you more masses than you are aware to get me back again. NB When I speak of 33 1/3 I mean books of your *own print-*

ing or those you get in exchange for them. On imported books I expect less. Here's another thing I wish to mention.

I deem it glory to circulate valuable books. I w^d^ circulate millions. This cannot be effected without the character of *cheapness*. Let but the public point to me and say "*there goes the little Parson that brings us so many clever books and so cheap*," and I ask no more. But this building a high fortune on low pric^d^ books, appears to you strange as the fatn'ing a Calf by bleeding it. But the Scotch Merchants, who are your best marksmen at a dollar on the wing, will tell you that there's nothing like the nimble ninepence.

There's the American Jest book — 120 pages — a handsome Cut, and half bound in red, filleted, and marbled paste board, for 25 Cents, and 33 1/3 pr Cent allow^d^ to me. Now, there you give universal satisfaction. The public say tis cheap, & great numbers will be sold, and you will make 50 or 60 per Cent on your money. If Charlotte Temple, Paul & Mary,[1] Principles of politeness,[2] Gregory's Legacy and a great many such sweet improving pieces (*each with an enchanting Cut*) were to be printed in that way, what thousands might I not sell, and consequently how much more good might be done & how much more money made? Suppose that Charlotte Temple were to cost 20 Cents, and I sold it at 50 Cents, there w^d^ be, not 8 pr Cent (the common interest at law or bank) but 75 pr Cent, and this, not at slow expiration of 12 long months, but at the quick return of half that time. For in good weather, such as Spring Summer or Fall, I sh^d^ not be afraid to sell 2, 3 or 400 copies of any of these books in 5 or 6 months. The papers *now teem* with advertisements of New and Large Book stores opening in all the principal towns, hence the expediency of adopting my *profitable plan*. Let your Jest book be the standard as to size & price, and we shall succeed.

[1] *Paul and Mary. An Indian Story. Tr. from the French of Monsieur De St. Pierre . . .* Salem, Massachusetts: — . . . [*Oct. 27, 1795*]. LC.

[2] The famous Lord Chesterfield's *Principles of Politeness*. The LC. has a Greenfield (Massachusetts) edition of 1796. *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, [LC.] gives the full title: 'Chesterfield's (Lord) Principles of Politeness, and knowing the World. With additions, by the Rev. John Trusler; containing every instruction necessary to complete the Gentleman and Man of Fashion; to teach him a knowledge of life, and make him well received in all companies, 38 cents, Phil. 1809.' A book which is as full of well-bred cynicism as could be desired by the veriest 'maccaroni' of its day.

On Monday I set out again bad as the weather is — I have several Copies of Guthrie's bespoken. Hope to make a good sale of that work. I have been at great trouble about the Bible. The eager expectations of hundreds & hundreds are rais^{d}. Disappointment now may blast our future attempts. Surely, if you can't print 2,000 yourself, you can effect it by partnership. For God sake let the paper & style be what the Public expect from Carey. Had your Almanac said a good deal about the *weather*, and hit off nicely the *rising* &c of the Sun, it w^{d} have cut out all the Almanacs. I am torn to pieces for some *handsome pocket* Bibles — Prayer Books — Spectators — Pilgrims progress — 1 Copy of Turkish spy[1] &c. In fact I am fill^{d} with astonishment & grief to think that I, who have travers^{d} so many *leagues* & mingled with so *many thousands*, have done so little!! But I cease to *wonder* (tho my grief remains) when I remember, that, until *now*, I have hardly had anything but Blair's Sermons *mismatch^{d}* & parcels of unpopular religious books. Had I the allowance of 33 1/3 pr Cent on all books of your own printing, *and those got in exchange*, making in toto a pretty assortment — and these regularly supplied, as I sh^{d} *demand*, but *not faster*, what handsome sales might I not make? Taught by past experience and now getting generally acquainted with the people, I can select *safe Merchants* in all the towns & villages throughout this Country — Honest Publicans too, on all the great roads & wealthy neighborhoods, with fit assortments expos^{d} (in glass window^{d} book cases) to the eager eyes of travellers, state passengers & neighbours, w^{d} render me good service — To these, add the amount of my *own sales*, augmented by *subscriptions*, and *Orders* and who does not see that in the course of a few months, this affair may become immensely advantageous? But highly gratifying to me as w'd [*be*] the conduct and accomplishment of this business, I am *determin'd never to undertake* it unless I can do it with safety. God I pray him, keep me from Suicide, and especially from that worse sort, the murder of *Self*, *Wife* & *Children!!* I well know the Legions of Devils that haunt the poor wretch who is always

[1] *Letters written by A Turkish Spy, . . . [John Paul Marana] . . .* London: . . . 1801. LC. Thus described in *Carey's Catalogue* for 1818, LC.: 'Letters written by a Turkish Spy, who lived 45 years undiscovered at Paris, giving an impartial account of the most remarkable Transactions of Europe, and discovering several intrigues of the Christian Courts (especially that of France), from 1637 to 1682, 8 vols. $12 50 Lond. 1801.'

suffering, yet *starving*, always tugging hard, yet losing ground and daily, in spite of oar & sail, drawing nearer & nearer to that Maelstrom, that navel of wretchedness, a prison!!

33 1/3 pr Cent on your *own* books, &c. and I'm your Man. And even from that, deduct, — My allowance to Deputies — Loss by frauds — by insolvencies — by travelling expences — by missing fees at marriages, at funerals &c. &c. &c. &c. and what is the amount? Forget not *the Bible*. Academies are opening fast. School books will meet a ready sale. Scotts lessons Enticks pocket dictionary [1] (Brynberg [2] Wilmington has a cheap edition) English Grammars — *Neat pocket* bibles — testaments — prayer books, Spectators cheap — Turkish Spy — Dream books — *few of each*. I don't want books to lie by me. If ever you reprint Charlotte Temple, do it on size of Am. Jest book, with an affecting Cut, and sell it cheap you'll not lose your reward. I left a pyramid of Bachelors at your house and 80 or 90 Washingtons Life with Mrs. Smith, without the cuts. Beg Robinson to bind me 100 Mentor & 100 Death of Abel and tell him to tell me (by you) to pay Brundige From the Mentor & Death of Abel (the last *sheets* sent you this last summer by Brundige). I can send you much money this year, forget me not. Col[1] Ewell has a smart well grown Son of 19 years, whom he wishes to be taught to print. Can he be taught in one Year? What w'd Maxwell ask to board & teach him for one year, and when wd he take him? Answer that.

We have been higgling a great while about wages. Let this letter terminate the controversy. 33 1/3 was what I understood when I went to Philada, and before I came from N. York. On that, your profits will be (as I wish them) *immense*. At least 50 pr Cent on your money, even if you were to put them at swift selling rates of the Am. Jest book, i.e. at the rate of 120 pages, duodo half bound & filleted in red leather, & marble pasteboard & cut for 25 cents; and this 50 pr Cent for your money, not 50 pr annum, but (generally) 50 pr 6 months, i.e. 100 pr annum!! In a word — for my paper & patience are both at the fag end, I will enter *cordially*, and I trust (with a common blessing) *successfully* into your interest, provided you allow me, what I hope by this time you clearly see I ought to have, i, e, 33 1/3 on all your own printing & those

[1] *Entick's New Spelling Dictionary*, . . . London . . . 1791, LC.

[2] Peter Brynberg, well-known publisher and bookseller.

got in exchange, less, on imports. In the boxes sent to this place last fall are 12 School Master's assistant [1] which I do not see charg[d] to me. Look — as they were not mark[d] I sold ½ doz. of them to a School Master at the rate of 4 Dol pr doz. Hill's arithmetic w[d] sell well, Am Clerks Magazine also.[2] I set off on Monday. Treat me by the old adage, "*Live & let live*" and my education & abilities (such as they are) my honesty & enthusiasm, are yours, otherwise I'll come to an anchor, and not spread my canvass to a gale that wou'd carry me to the Devil. Off and on, I've been 5 years in your service, and after all, but for my salary & surplice fees I sh[d] be on the Parish,[3] & yet you'll talk about *five & twenty pr Cent*, as of something that w[d] make a king of me. Give me the heart that is refresh[d] at seeing a faithful dog wagging his tail at a *full plate*, and not that which cares not (after the game's taken) how soon poor Luah goes to the hawks of heaven. I shall be back in 4 weeks. But I wish you coud answer Col[l] Jesse Ewell *immediately* about his Son & Maxwell. A copy of Euclid's bespoken.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad[a]. Feb. 24, 1801.

. . . Were the Business to do again, I should not allow more than 20 per cent on the articles above and 25 on those below a quarter Dollar. The rapacity that has led to a demand of 33⅓ per cent disgusts me & excites my abhorence. It appears to me you would, without hesitation, take every farthing of the profit of all the works you sell; as you had the modesty to do with Goldsmith, which, by him, that made me, you had for FIRST COST, or *probably, for less*. . . .

A country dealer comes to my store, & gives me an order for 100 Dollars worth of Books, the whole payable in six months. I make him a discount of 16 2/3 percent. If he pays cash down, I allow him a further discount of 5 percent. This reduces my hundred Dollars retail to

[1] *The Schoolmaster's Assistant: Being a Compendium of Arithmetic; Both Practical and Theoretical.* In Five Parts. . . . By Thomas Dilworth, . . . Philadelphia: . . . Joseph Crukshank, . . . MDCCXCVI. HSP.

[2] *American Clerk's Magazine* . . . By Samuel Freeman, Esq.; . . . Boston . . . 1795, LC.

[3] This agrees with the contract between Carey and Weems, dated April 1, 1796. The goodly number of imprints issued by Weems in the years immediately preceding that, explain his financial stress. The phrase 'on the Parish' was equivalent to 'going to the almshouse.' Pohick Church in Truro Parish is the only one definitely identified for his temporary incumbency at this period.

79 16/100 Dollars in hand — no freight — no risque — no grumbling — no [*illegible*] letters to write — no postage to pay. . . .

I shall print the bible and trust I shall find persons to vend it, less grasping than parson Weems. I shall do a handsome Edition, such as will secure a ready market everywhere.

It is a dishonest thing to insinuate so often as you do, about the consequences of overloading you with religious Books unordered — 1794–5. You know you assert an untruth, when you charge to that acc^{t}. your delay of payment & difficulties . . .

L. & F. Vol. 39.

RICHMOND. Feb^{y}. 6. 1801.

SIR. Inclos^{d} I send you — 40 Dollars — The amount of three days sales at Country meetings of vendues of Lands, Negroes & Horses.

Your books are universally complain^{d} of as *too dear*. Remember the Nimble ninepence is better than the slow shilling. But you can preach about the Boy and Goose with golden eggs, and that's all.

Solomon Myers has been owing me 161 Dollars these three years. You may be much more interested in settling that matter for me than you are aware. You know I may DIE!!! Be Prudent. You said you coud settle it for me. You can take it out in printing some little book.

I can sell you a great many Prayer Books But for God's sake sell Divinity cheap.

The stars fight against me. Men, Bad & Good conspire my ruin. Young Charles Alexander the most wealthy, the most amiable and most honest man in Virginia, the man too after my own heart, has witheld my money from me. I desir^{d} him again & again to send on the money (159 Dol) to you. I then wrote to him to send it to me at Dumfries. Brundige has orders to open the letter in my absence and to inclose the Notes to you. I can get vast numbers (numbers without number) of subscribers to the family Bible. Why will you "kick against the pricks?" Why will you Curse the Bible & turn Turk? If you coud but make out to Obtain only 500 Copies and with but two, 3 or 4 Cuts, it w^{d} do as a barrel to the whale untill we coud get another & better plan into progress. Woud God you had but wisdom to see, in this your day, the things that make for your good. Miserable as the times & roads are I go on. Shall remit shortly,

L. & F. Vol. 39.
Dumf. Feb^{y} 16, 1801

Sir. The 20 and 30 Dol. you speak of I p^{d} to Mr. Brundige he says he has given them a pass.

	Dol
From Richmond on the 6 Inst. I sent you.....	40
Today the 16th by Mr. Brundige.....	50
D^{o} D^{o} D^{o} by D^{o} from Lee, via Ch^{s} Alexander....	160
	Dol 250

Tis no wonder you hold fast for a Purgatory. A soul that has so much soot on her wings of snow, coud hardly venture, tho from an Hibernian perch, to take a straight flight to Paradise. This, now, Love and then Hatred, sits like a drench of honey and gall on my stomach — mighty near puking. But that it w^{d} arguefy *apparent* ingratitude to leave you untill I had help'd to make up your Leeway by those millions of little fry w^{h} you cruelly volunteer^{d} upon me, I wou^{d} cut my tow rope and beat about the main Ocean like one of Mother Carey's chickens. Believe me it were now my *interest* to cut loose, otherwise sure as the Devil's in Dublin, I shall be dragg^{d} under. For, when neither God nor man requir'd it of me, I went for your sake and borrow'd 250 dol of my Brother. Well, I'm paying interest on that. By much preach^{g} & pray^{g} to People up & down the country, I collected 300 Dol for a Charity School. This I put into the Geo.Town bank. Nothing wou'd content you, untill you had got that, and 50 dol below w't it now cou'd sell for. Well I must pay interest for that. And again here's M^{rs}. Campbell to whom I am pay^{g} interest for 500 Dol. All this bears hard on me. When I was in Philad^{a}, you agreed to reprint Paul & Mary, and Charlotte Temple &^{c}. &^{c}. &^{c}. and in this way, "if the book sh^{d} cost one shill'^{g} and I sold it for three, you were to give me *one*." But when I return^{d} from New York, you w^{d} not let it be so, but stinted me to 25 pr Cent. I go to a Court house or to a Sale. The People gather about me. A gentleman dives his hands into my trunk and brings up book after book until he has piled up a dozen. "Now says he, as I mean to take all these, surely you'll make me a handsome discount." If he were in Philad^{a}. you w'd dash him off 20 or 25 pr Cent at once. If I make him *half that*,

and I have sometimes done more, where is my living? This Dwarf & Giant partnership business never answers — The Saddle is always sure to come at last upon the wrong horse. For we read that tho' the Dwarf was a dwarf of spunk, he soon came off with a fractured skull, an ex-socket eye and a bridge broken nose, and in short after being completely done over in wind, limb, and pizzle, was fain to cry out "Good bye to ye, Polyphemus," and hobble away to an alms house for life. My God! how close have I trod upon the heels of this poor dwarf? but for thy Angel of unmerited mercy giving my frame the tone of a lightwood knot I had, long e'er this, sunk under what I have under gone!

Mr. Carey (now quitting this Lugubrous Ground) I have ever glow^{d} with a book vending enthusiasm. I believe in the Immortality of the Soul, and the future reign of Light, Liberty & Love. I believe too that in those Gorgeous Worlds, those who have here aided the diffusion of Light & Love shall outshine the stars. Hence my enthusiasm to vend good books. But the Sun soaring eaglet must not get limed. You wou^{d} lime me, you w^{d} so clip the wings of my wages, as to bring me down flopping in the mire of meanness, baseness & dishonesty, w^{h} w^{d} soon drive me like an Owl to the shade of insignificance & uselessness. Oh that you did but consider the consequence of giving me the character of a Consciencious Book Seller, and the cheapest bookseller in Virginia! I tell you it w^{d} be worth thousands to us both. Of the Bachelor I left up in my room at one end of the Settee, a pyramid 3 or 4 feet high. They've been mislaid. My spirits are revived at the news of the resurrection of the Bible — I can cover the whole 1500. I contemplate a better edition, for the next time. You see the misfortune I labour under. Mr. Alexander never got my letter, tho sent by mail, till the 11th Inst. The book binders are *immensely careless* and cause us great harm!!! At 87½ cents I think I coud sell you 500 Am. Clerks Magazine. Of Prayer books, a great many Rippons Hymns [1] — Scots lessons — Ash's Grammar, or some best guide to English grammar — Morse's Geography

[1] *A Selection of Hymns from the best Authors, Intended to be an Appendix to Dr. Watt's Psalms and Hymns.* By John Rippon, A.M. First American Edition. New-York: Printed and Sold by William Durell, at his Book-Store and Printing-Office, No. 19, Queen-Street. M,DCC,XCII. NYPL.

duod°. — I trust I shall sell a good many of Guthrie *soon*. Davis's Sermons [1] w^d^ sell — a few Copies immediately —

There are a good many Columb Sp^l^. in the boxes at Richmond. Dont send above 500 here. Send among them a large type N. Testament & a specimen of your prayer-books — both sorts.

L. & F. Vol. 39.
DUMF. Feb. 24, 1801

SIR. Last week I sent you — 50 Dol. Now (tho I've [*not*] stirr'd from home) I send you 20 do.

You put me to infinite trouble. The first time I went to Richmond for the books they were *embargo'd*. Coming & going nearly 300 Miles Winter roads & Weather! — The 2d time, twas as bad; M^r^ Pleasants had them and w^d^ not let me have even a doz Alm^cs^ without pay. Coming & going, a little round about, again nearly 300 miles. Now the 3d time, but how it may prosper God knows, will make up almost a 1000 Miles!! Such sport with one's feelings such loss of time w^d^ do over almost any Man but an Enthusiast. I have told you several times, and now tell you once more for the last time, that my *own salvation* will not allow me to sell books (of *your own printing*) for less than 33 1/3 pr Cent. I sold yesterday six dollars worth of Ash's Grammar (my own) and of your Am. Preceptor. To give the Merch^t^ a living profit I was oblig^d^ to let him have Am. Preceptor at the rate of 2/4 (Pennsylvania Currency) apiece! Allow^d^ but 25 pr Cent, I sh^d^ make nothing. I hate such cursed calculations as cordially as you do, and I make them only to show you, that, I can prove by Arithmetic, that I can never be Bookseller general to you, on the crumb like allowance of 25 pr Cent. I shall expect you to allow me 33 1/3 on the books (Guthrie excepted) sent me to this place last fall, as also on those sent to Richmond. I mean those of them *printed &c by yourself*. I shall go on as well as I can in remittance. I preach^d^ a funeral Sermon t'other day for w^h^ I am to be paid four half *Joes* I receiv^d^ & (as I think) from first rate Judges such commendation of it, as bids me put it to press, title "THE LOVELY WIFE, an Oration pronounc^d^ over

[1] Weems for many years desired to have Davies reprinted and finally succeeded in having what was partially his own edition in 1816. (*Bibliography, title 239.*)

the honor[d] dust of a Sleeping Angel — Mrs. Catharine Chichester, fairfax Co Virginia" [1] — If you coud get me a *superlatively lovely female likeness* (about 23) Duod°. & touch[d] off in his best style by Tanner [2] or Tiebout — 10 or 12 dol. you[d] greatly oblige. I set out tomorrow — shall take Jefferson. Bible goes on swimmingly. Dont neglect me —

Shall be back in 3 weeks.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

RICHMOND. March 4th. 1801

SIR. . . . You give, and *will give me* infinite trouble, by send[g] so many books to so distant a place. I hope to make a good sale of Guthrie in the *country*. I have today been 3 hours at close quarters with the Merch[ts] of Richmond, but cou'd not vend a single copy of Guthrie. I shall renew the attack tomorrow. In the Country I have a good prospect. In the next box to Fredericksb[g] or Dumfries, send some Subscriptions for Guthrie, I mean to exert myself this spring and summer on that work. I sold two copies as I came along (at Port Royal) and have *more bespoke*. NB, at 17 Dol. As to Bible, *that* goes *on well*. Properly executed, 'twill be a *great thing to us both*. Some are dishearten[d] from Subscribing. "*We are constantly subscribing*, say they, *but can never get a book*." If you let this fall to the ground, I shall, perhaps, never undertake another work for you. As you wish success in all your future efforts, fall to with vigor & finish it *elegantly*. Great things are at stake on this Bible.

The Public still complain of your books — "*Damn'd dear by gad*" is eternally sounding in my ears. 'tis a rattle kindly announcing the sting at hand. *But I fear you will not avoid it.* You may rest assured that you are ruining the goodliest prospect man ever had. Charlotte Temple *half bound* and *half blank*, *without cut* & *unletter[d]* 62½ Cents!! Italian Nun [3] still worse! See, Charlotte has been on hand since August 97.

[1] This imprint never found by me.

[2] Benjamin Tanner, of New York, said to have been a pupil of Cornelius Tiebout, made engravings for Weems, notably a portrait for Bioren's second edition of his *Life of Washington* (*Bibliography, title 3*) and the frontispiece for *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* (*No. 2*), 1802 (*Bibliography, title 171*), entitled 'NEST OF LOVE.' For sketches of Tanner see: *History of the Rise and Progress of the Arts of Design in America*, by William Dunlap, New York, 1834, Vol. II, p. 47, LC., and *American Engravers upon Copper and Steel*, by David McNeely Stauffer, 1907, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 263, 264.

[3] Probably an earlier and imported edition of *Letters of an Italian Nun and an English*

Almost 4 years sell[g] perhaps 2000 Copies!! Now, print me an edition, *close neat, with a fine cut and letter[d]*, and I'll bet you the profits on 1500 Bibles that I sell you 2,000 copies in one 12 month.

I have much to say to you — But, in brief take the Argument. I have come *to a determination* to be no *Whipper in*. Unless you give me the unmolested sway over all the territory within 70 or 80 miles of Dumfries, it will not be worth my while to attend your business. Furnish me without *risk* or *expence*, *Novels*, *School books*, &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. and, on those of your own printing &c. at 33 1/3 pr Cent commission, and *I'll supply* (at my own *trouble & hazard*) Port Royal, Fredericksb'g, Caroline, King George, Culpeper, Stafford Court houses &[c]. &[c]. On such hunting ground I might pick up game enough to compensate my daily sacrifices & suicides, *On less I cou'd not*. God grant you the spirit of Liberality! That alone can give union & energy to Mathew Carey & C[o]. I w[d] we coud have 1[st] a *grand talk*. — 2d, all our books pric[d] at 100 pr Cent say on the shilling, and then 6[d] for Carey & 6[d] for Weems. God Willing I shall be at home in ten days. Shall remit soon

turn over

Send no more Constantia De Valmont — Nor Arundle nor Grasville Abbey [1] — nor any other book for w[h] I do not write. Put some beautiful lines (*poetry*) under Jefferson. They will do great good. I have got some Subscribers.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

RICHMOND. March 5. 1801.

SIR.

By this same mail I send you 40
Now I send you 25

This last 25 collected from Columbian Spell[g] books sold at 10/9 pr doz! so help me God. I fear yet I shall go to the place of torment thro your infernal mismanagement — To send me on 4 boxes each nearly the weight of a hogshead of Tobacco to a place 100 Miles distant from Dumfries.

Gentleman. Translated from the French of J. J. Rousseau . . . Sixth Edition Harrisburgh, Printed for Mathew Carey, . . . By John Wyeth, 1809. LC.

[1] 'Graseville Abbey, a novel, 2 vols . . . Salem' Listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

And that enormous weight made up in *great measure*, of about 40,000 toy books. Twas such mismanagement that broke the heart of Hannibal and w^d^ break the heart of anything short of God Almighty. I wanted some at Richmond to be sure, but Plague on it, can't it rain without pouring. To be plain, candid and everything else that is honest, I'll never sell another book (of your own printing) under 33 1/3. And will do nothing more if you give me not a sweep of 60 [*miles?*], Dumfries the centre I'll be no Whipper in, by the Great Object of adjuration, I'll be no Whipper in. Put some fine poetry under Jefferson. Send me no more Constantia De Valmont, nor Arundle, nor Grasville Abbey, nor any books but those I order. I want nothing which I cannot instantly turn into Money. You have no idea of the *Nimble Shilling*, ergo you will always have a Mountain of refuse books sufficient to give Me, or Briareus, or the Devil, the colic —

Let me hear about the Bible — D^o^ D^o^ about such things as I wish to hear & must hear

L. & F. Vol. 39.

PETERSBURG March 10. 1801

SIR.

Today (Tuesday) sent by Mr. Grammar	50 Dol
Last Friday by mail from Richmond in two letters.....	65
	115

I hope to make another remittance day after tomorrow. To make you up remittances I make considerable sacrifices — have sold all the Columbian Spell^g^ books @ 10/9!!! *Virginia* [*currency*]. Guthrie, 5 sets at 15½ Dollars, w^h^ is rather more than my net profit when I give one for 8. There are, not *51*, but *49* Maps, which is but 2 maps more than the old Atlass contain^d^. You remember they were to have been charg^d^ 14 Dol to me on supposition that I sold them at 18 pr new subscription paper but in lieu of 18, I have generally sold them at 15½ Dol. I need not tell you that I expect them at 12 or 12½ — I sell the Primers & toy books wholesale at great discount for the reason above, viz to make remittances, the former @ 3/, the latter @ 1/6 pr doz Virg. Currency. I shall try today, to launch Noah Webster @ 10/6 pr doz. Charlotte sells to admira-

tion, and, no offence to that poor Girl, the horse farriery sells as well. My God! — What might not have been done by me in these 5 years past had my voice but been heard as earnestly exclaiming "send me No histories" &c. &c. — And still you will keep sending books of no *Name*, nor fame such as Constantia de Valmont, Arundle &c. &c. I want books to sell and to do good, not to heap up the prey of moths & mice. —

Washington is gone — the people are tearing me to pieces. Pleasant has sold all — he begs I wd get out another edition — & promises it will outsell any book in America. Can you print me speedily a Neat edition of 1600, on Octavo size, with my large plate of Washington, bound like Italian Nun, only 100 pages for 4.00 Dol? I'll wholesale like fury, and send you the money (Deo Vol.) very soon.

Volti.

I think I cou'd *quickly* sell you a smart edition of Charlotte & Farriery — Charlotte close printed & cheap Horse Farriery for @ 40 cents. Wd God you had the soul of Francis Xavier!!! I too shd become immortal — I have no Charlotte nor farriers but wt happen to be at the stores. Tomorrow I look to the North.

Forget not Myers — Guthrie cheap — 33 1/3 on all your home spun — a clear radius of *60 miles* from *Dumfries* — the centre — or my top-sails shiver in the wind —

L. & F. Vol. 39.

RICHMOND. March 12. 1801

MATHEW CAREY, ESQ., . . . This moment call'd at the post office of this City to drop in a letter — found your's. The Contents are pleasing to me. Had they reachd me at Dumfries, I shd not have gone to Petersburg, nor have touchd your books, of which, for want of such information, I had taken out as follow.

		Dol	Cents
146 Song books	@		12½
221 Primers	@		6½
302 Toy books	@		25
63 Jest & Merry	@		20
225 Webster Spellg			
25 Charlotte			62½

		Dol	Cents
14 Farriers	@		50
65 Songs			6½
296 Columb. Spell'g	@		
7 Guthrie with 7 Atlass.			
1 Italian Nun			
1 Arundle			
Vid. Jest & Merry fellow 2 altr[d] to 3.			

The whole of these books hardly (I suppose) amount to 165 Dol, (*sent* to you.) And yet I have not sold above 3 fourths of them. 2 Guthries & almost all the Websters on hand, but converted into other more *saleable books* for I coud not vend more than 3 doz of them (tho offer[d] at 50 stores in Richmond Manchester, & Petersburg at 10/6 pr dozen. Of the 100 Dol sent you in two days what do I make? Toy books @ 1/6 pr doz. Primers 3/ pr d° — Songs @ 5/ pr d° — Columb Spell[g] books @ 10/9 — Webster @ 10/6 Guthrie @ 15½ Dol. "Why did you sell them so"? — "Because you wanted money, and I had been put to so much trouble, vexation, loss of time, loss of Parochial fees, &c. &c. — that I wish[d] to turn them into money, tho *Tantalus like* I shd not myself taste a drop of the silver stream. I now turn my back on this "*mighty show of unreal wealth.*" I have borne Insult & Injury too long to think of retaliating now, I shall therefore close our correspondence & business with the sincerest wishes for your Welfare. This moment I leave your books with Pleasants. Those unsold in Dumfries, shall be lodg[d] with Mr. Brundige. I shall continue to remit as fast as I can, & in a few weeks say something on the score of giving you security.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad[a]. March 20, 1801.

. . . Once for all, I tell you, you have no right to sell my Books in Virginia cheaper than I do here. It is dishonest & improper in a high degree. But, sir sell them at what price you may, or give them away, I am not to be juggled or swindled out of my property. I shall not abate a single dollar of the prices stated in my Invoice. I am under no great compliment to you for supposing me such a dupe as to be taken in by your cant about selling Guthrie at 15½ Dollars which I every day receive 17 [*for*] or Webster for 10/9.

Your threats of discontinueing the connexion are truly laughable & ridiculous. I am sick to death of it — and the greatest favour you can do me, is to pack up carefully & return my property.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

DUMFRIES March 21. 1801

SIR. In my letters from Richmond & Petersb'g I inform'd that I had sent you from those places..... 165 Dol.

I now send you pr M^r. B..... 30

This last was the amount of a couple of Copies of Guthrie, which, having been taken *out of the boxes* before I receiv^d your scene closing letters, were not thought worth while to be return'd. I made a digression of 20 miles from the main road to an academy where I sold those two copies above mention^d, and cou'd sell more, But, self preservation is a grand law in the economy of Man. I gave you a list of the books which I took out of the boxes at Richmond; of the contents of those boxes I am totally ignorant, one box excepted, that I mean which you say contains 20 Copies of Guthrie. I'm sure there is a mistake. I took out seven copies, five I sold in a couple of mornings at Manchester & Chesterfield C[*ourt*] house the other two as I came up — I counted but 10 more Atlasses in the box. If the Atlasses stand for copies, there is a deficit of 3 Copies. I retire from your business with a feast at heart w^h all the Wealth of Clive coud not impart — a consciousness that of 15 or 20,000 Dol. worth of books committed to my care, I have never wrong^d you even of a Primer. But here seems to be a deficit of 3 copies of Guthrie! Kind Heaven has preserv^d me from all suspicion. For on open'g the box I found it so entirely fill^d that I'm confident it cou'd not contain *one* quarto more much less *nine*. M^r. Pleasants had taken the boxes from M^r. Pollards, & plac^d them elsewhere, so that I know not their contents. I came home last night & I set off immediately for Fairfax to preach a funeral sermon over a Wealthy lady there; the day after tomorrow I shall (God willing) return and spend the day (to me a happy day) in counting & depositing with M^r. Brundige the whole of your books. You shall have the catalogue sign^d by Mr. Brundige. I shall at the same time transmit you a glimpse of the extreme injustice and barbarity which has mark^d your treatment of me from the *commencement* to the *close* of our dealings. I

am well aware of your self-security on that quarter; but we are told that "the heart is deceitful above all things," and I am sure I shall draw such a picture of M. Carey that M. Carey himself shall be startled at.

Your Ob.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. March 27, 1801.

. . . You threatened me with "a glimpse of the extreme injustice & Barbarity, which has marked my treatment of you from the commencement to the close of our dealings." — & with "such a picture of M. Carey as M. Carey himself shall be startled at."

I have no objection to sit for my picture — & know well your skill in hitting off such a likeness as you please. But I also am somewhat of a portrait painter; & hope you will be pleased to sit for me. If I do not draw such a picture of the avarice, rapacity, & extortion that have marked your conduct toward me, as will make parson Weems himself startle. And as you have sometimes had the Decency to let my letters lie in the post office, to avoid the trifling expense of postage, this shall be directed to some of your friends in Dumfries, to whom I will give directions to read it.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

Dumfries March 24. 1801.

Sir. Yesterday I return[d], and, according to promise, have spent the greatest part of today in keel hauling & classing your books. In the present rank & file they stand thus — 17 Guthrie with Atlasses — 2 large 5 Dol Atlasses colour[d] — 27 Charlotte Temple 1/2 bound — 16 Maria [1] — 57 Am. Preceptor — 37 Elegant Fables [2] — 31 Ital. Nun, *letter[d]* — 62 Ital. Nun *not letter[d]* — 37 Love & Patriotism [3] — 82 Constantia de Valmont — 24 Arundle — 62 Jest & merry fellow — 25 Farriers —

[1] *Maria: or, the Wrongs of Woman . . .* by Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin. . . . Philadelphia: Printed by James Carey . . . 1799. LC.

[2] 'Elegant Fables . . . N. York.' Listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804,* in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century,* by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[3] *Love and Patriotism: or, the Extraordinary Adventures of M. Duportail, late Major-General in the Armies of the United States. Interspersed with many Surprising Incidents in the life of the late Count Pulauski.* [*Jean Baptiste Louvet de Couvrai*] Philadelphia: Printed by Carey & Markland. 1797. LC.

64 Prompters [1] — 107 Childs Guide — 7 Wieland [2] — 9 Grasville Abbey — 9 Frasiers Assistant [3] — 5 Eloisa 3 Vol. 4 Charlotte's Letters — 1 Evelina 2 Vol.[4] 6 Ambrose & Eleanor — 2 Monk 2 Vol.[5] — 2 Emilia de Valmont [6] — 1 Ladies Mirror — 2 George Barnwell [7] — 2 Ormond [8] — 2 Am. Spectator — 1 Plain Sense 2 Vol. [9] — 4 Dilworth's Assistant [10] — 1 Constant Lover [11] — 1 Midnight Bell [12] — 1 Haunted Cavern [13] — 5 Cookery books — 1 Tom Jones 3 Vol. — 3 doz. Perpetual Alm^{cs} — 165 small songs — 55 large songs — 1 Cavern of Death,[14] 5 boxes 213 Washington's Legacy.

Allow me now to say, that, had it not been for your putting me upon a dog-trot *all this Winter* between Richmond & Dumfries, I shoud have sold off nearly the whole of these books especially Guthrie, of which I have at this moment no fewer than 19 or 20 Copies engag^{d}, but, for the reason just now assign^{d} [*I*] had not opportunity to make a stretch into the latitude of my subscribers — Charlotte Temple, the Farriers &^{c}. I

[1] *The Prompter*, by Noah Webster, first printed serially and anonymously in the *Connecticut Courant* in 1791 and 1792, and reprinted in many editions.

[2] *Wieland; or the Transformation. An American Tale.* [*Charles Brockden Brown*] . . . New-York: Printed by T. & J. Swords, for H. Caritat 1798. HSP. See also *Early American Fiction 1774–1830*, Oscar Wegelin, Stamford, Conn., 1902, LC.

[3] *The Young Gentleman and Lady's Assistant; Partly Original, But chiefly Compiled from the Works of The most celebrated modern Authors; . . . In Five Parts, Viz. Geography, Natural-History, Elocution, Poetry, — and Miscellany. To which is annexed — a short system of Practical Arithmetic; . . .* By Donald Fraser, School-Master, . . . New-York — Printed by Tho's Greenleaf, M,DCC,XCI. NYHS.

[4] The famous novel by 'Fanny' Burney.

[5] *The Monk; a romance.* Matthew Gregory Lewis, Waterford, 1796, LC. — First published in the *South Carolina Museum.* See *Reminiscences of Charleston*, J. N. Cordozo, Charleston, 1866, p. 32, LC. — For a long tirade against *The Monk*, see *Pursuits of Literature*, [*Thomas J. Mathias*] Philadelphia, 1800, p. 204 & *f.n.*, LC.

[6] *Emilie de Varmont*, by Jean Baptiste Louvet de Couvrai.

[7] *George Barnwell.* A New Novel. By T. S. Surr, . . . Two Volumes in One. Boston: Printed for Joseph Bumstead. . . . 1800. AAS.

[8] *Ormond; or The Secret Witness*, by Charles Brockden Brown. A New York, 1799, edition listed in *Early American Fiction 1774–1830*, Oscar Wegelin, Stamford, Conn., 1902, LC.

[9] 'Plain Sense, or History of Ellen Mordaunt and Henry Villars, 2 vols. 12 mo. Philad. 2 dolls.' Listed in Growoll — see note 2, p. 181.

[10] Thomas Dilworth's popular *School-master's Assistant*, a book in high repute until Webster's, *The Columbian* and Murray's supplanted it.

[11] *The Constant Lover; or, William and Jeanette: A Tale. From the German of Augustus von Kotzebue, . . .* Two Volumes in One. Boston: Printed for Joseph Bumstead. . . . 1799. HU.

[12] 'Midnight Bell, a German Story, Philad.' Listed in Growoll — see note 2, p. 181.

[13] 'Haunted Cavern, a Caledonian Tale . . . N. York.' Listed in Growoll — see note 2, p. 181.

[14] *The Cavern of Death, a Moral Tale. . . .* Bonsal & Niles . . . Baltimore. 1795. LC.

coud also have sold, as readily as w^d^ Irish Potatoes now in the streets of London, but omitted to take them, *in quantities*, when setting out for Richmond, as I expected to get my box full there — thus, on my way back, was often ask^d^ for those books when I had them not with me.

I said in my last that I w^d^ demonstrate to you, the inhumanity of your treatment to me, from the commencement to the close of our dealings; but since those dealings are now at an end, why, Son of Erin, shou^d^ I speak the bitter words of retaliation? But since you lay on me the fault of miscarriage, permit me to say one word before we part. You yourself allow that I am a Man of some education, talent & address — and is there on earth a person of my acquaintance who does not acknowledge me a man of uncommon industry? Why then have we not had uncommon success? I'll tell you, and with truth equal to texts of holy writ. When I began for you the sales of Goldsmith, were not my rapidity & success above your expectations? What was the reason? Why, I had the book that suited the taste of the Virginians: hence, tho the supplies were not equal to my activity, yet I well know that I frighten'd even Mathew Carey with my incessant blaze of bank notes. In the midst of this glorious contest, you sent me a quantity of miscellaneous books. Large, Large monies were then waiting for me & Goldsmith, but heu miserande! I was oblig^d^ to shut down the flood gates, and attend to these miscellaneous things — I soon found that these books did not hit the popular palate — I wrote to you, begging for sweet prosperity's sake that you w^d^ send no more of such books, but send rather, "fine sentimental Novels, Histories, Voyages, travels &^c^. &^c^. &^c^, but maugre my entreaties, you continued to send me the books I wanted not, and to with-hold those I *wanted;* and yet because great sales are not made, you blame me!! The General of some grand expedition sends for Musquets, the Minister at War sends him mortars he writes for field pieces, the other ships off two and forty pounders — he asks for soldiers, and behold seamen — The expedition fails the Minister rings in the people's ears, his great exertions, his vast supplies &^c^. The poor General goes to pot, and his heart's blood is libated to extinguish the flame of popular fury. I leave to Minister Carey to make the application — you have often told me of the immense supplies sent me, and I have as often acknowledg^d^ it, and thank^d^ you for such confidence repos^d^ in a stranger.

But happy w^d^ it have been for me, M^r^ Carey, had you never sent me those books. You have been, thereby, the cause of annihilating five years of my life! & depriving me of that easy independence which I might assuredly have made had I been constantly supplied with a good assortment of best Novels, histories, jests, songs, school books &c. You saw what I did with Goldsmith, of which I sold for you nearly 1,000 copies in a twelve month. You saw what I did with the Life of Washington & the Bachelor, of which I have sold between 7 and 8,000 in less than a twelve month — Merely because these books suited the taste of the People — Is'nt this enough to *prove* w^t^ I'm ready to swear by the living God, that, had I been regularly supplied with such an assortment as I ought to have had, both Minister Carey & the Jew Parson w^d^ at this moment possess from 3 to 5,000 Dol clear money. But while Minister Carey sends just *what* books he pleases, and in *what quantities* he pleases, and to what *places* he pleases, treating the Jew Parson as a *fool*, who when people ask a Novel, suppose they mean Edwards on the Affections: treating him as a veritable Slave, a *mere Cur*, ready to fly, the live long winter, thro ice and snow, without even the Common doglike fare of fetching & carrying; treating him as a false dangerous Knave to whom the books when sent are to be prohibited, and that under the eye of the wealthiest Gentlemen in the wealthiest city of Virginia — I say when things are so mismanaged no wonder that hope miscarries and both the oppressor and the oppressed are so ready to slink away from the abortion.

M^r^ Carey has a Son — but let me not point the tender parent to his only Son, an easy good natur'd boy, dragging thro the country loads of books which few will buy, crediting, or depositing them with merchants too prone to wrong him, and his allowance so scanty, that after five years of scorching summers, chilling winter, drenching rains, and ceaseless feverish toils, the poor Exile is just where he began — at the threshold of poverty whereas had he been vigorously supported by supplies of suitable books, he might, in that time, have acquired the means of rendering his old age both respectable and comfortable.

"Five and twenty p^r^ cent! Let me see, I send him 2,000 dollars worth of books, out of which I allow him 500 Dol. clear to himself!! and yet that does not satisfy this insatiable Jew Parson, this d—n'd Pulpit

shark!! ["] Now Mr Carey allows me, (what looks *big*, especially when propd with notes of admiration)

	Dol.
	500
But to sell 2,000 Dol. Parson Weems must have a horse & Carriage — at least —	200
Annual support of that horse & carriage — at least	100
Deduction to Purchasers — They will have it, if they buy but 3 books	50
Taverns — ferriages — Presents to the Children, vails to servants &c. &c at least	100
These drawbacks (tho not the *totality*) amounts to a dreadful	450.

But what if instead of personally vending your 2,000 dol. worth of books, I had put them into stores on a 15 pr Cent commission, my profits wd have shew'd on paper thus, 200 Dol! but by the fraud or bankruptcy of only *one* of the 20 Merchs with whom I deposited your books, my profits wd have come down to 100 Dol — from which deduct, horse, carriage taverns, ferriages &c. &c. (making 450 Dol) and you see I'm a loser 350 Dol. If Mr Small or any other highway bookseller will say that all his expenditures will not amount to 450 Dol. pr an. I will acknowledge myself a Liar — To circulate much useful information thro our country, or to bring much monies to yourself, tis necessary that well chosen assortments shou'd be judiciously deposited with Merchants throughout the Country. To engage their services, I have generally given 15 pr Cent (on my own books, 25 often) but we'll say 15 pr Cent — thus 18 pr Cent remains to me, to buy horses, & carriages, and to defray ten thousand expenses inseparable from travelling &c. But some Merchants actually refuse 15 pr Cent, "Mr. Weems," said one, "I wd do anything for you, but take books on commission; you know ev'ry-body sells on credit, payable once a year. I take your books, they are soon dispers'd; some of the purchasers may never pay me, but I must pay you. Thus to advance money on 15 pr Cent and then have to lay out of it for sometime & at last lose a part of it, will never do." Less than 33 1/3 I never will take, but I can say that & with great truth, without getting angry or abusing Minister Carey. You print me 2,000 Charlotte Temple, say 180 pages, 1/2 bd & letterd with tender frontispiece;

prime cost (by *2,000*) say 15^{d}, I sell them at 40^{d}, here's 166 2/3 profit. After giving me 33 1/3, you make one shilling on every book, which, on 2,000 books, makes upward of 250 Dol. and all this on a book but little larger and less work than a Spelling book, which you sell out & out at one shilling, and, again, all this done & paid for in one single year!!

Volti

For if I could but be at Philadelphia with the first sheet and frontispiece, I trust I sh^{d} manage matters [*so*] as to sell you 2, or 3,000 Copies. And if I do not sell them & pay you the money for 2,000, in one twelve month, I'll submit to a forfeiture. — The Prime Minister sh^{d} soon see the difference between *his* management & that of the Jew Parson. If the Jew Parson [*had*] but a carte blanche thrown to him with this preface "Sir, *what books? what quantities?* and to *what places shall I send?*" You sh^{d} then never hear of books lying on hand or returning to Philadelphia. I told you I wanted a pretty assortment of the most popular little pieces, such as the Vicar of Wakefield, Paul & Mary, &^{c}. &^{c} with each a frontispiece, and in a style so *neat & cheap* that every 3^{d} person at a Court house w'^{d} purchase, but in lieu of these you send me Constantia de Valmont, Grasville Abbey Weiland [*sic*] &^{c}. books unknown & high pric'd, and without fine Cuts, high *fame*, or anything else to recommend them to strangers, and yet you complain of, "*books return^{d}*" I ought, M^{r} Minister, to know at this time of day, what books will suit & sell well, such I'll have & none others. If you do not chuse to let me have them at a fair & equitable rate (33 1/3 p^{r} Cent) there is no harm done. Passion is not so pleasant that we sh^{d} invite it on every whip stitch — By the statement above, you make one shilling on every copy of Charlotte, I make 13^{d} but yours is without any draw back (sending them to me, excepted) but on my 13^{d} must be made all the destructive breaches of horse, carriage, travelling, wholesaling, store selling &^{c}. &^{c}. which will so reduce my 13^{d} that I w^{d} gladly take 4^{d} apiece for the 2,000. *Surely I am to be envied!* Remember, Carey, that millions are annually expended to promote War & Vice, darkness & misery thro the earth. The Press is the grand engine to silence the dogs of war & to bring back the golden age of Light, Liberty and Love. Need I tell you the glory that awaits him who stands by & gallantly plays off a piece of Celestial Artillery?

But go on your own way, hold up the price of the best books, and worse than Clive, starve the minds of mankind. You may at last find that, "true Self Love & Social is the same." i,e, that 250 dol on a book in one year is better than 400 Dol in *four years*. I coud sell a great many Guthrie this Spring, summer & fall, *at my old allowance of 4 Dol.* You may send me 500 Columb. Spell'g books. We differ not about that book nor about the bible, nor sh[d] we about any of your home spun, if you did but occupy a position whence you cou[d] command a view of the whole ground — as does

M. L. Weems

Immediately after finishing my letter, I went to packing your books. But as I was about to nail up Guthrie (17 Copies) I recollected that I had agreed to that work at 13 1/2 dollars. Now tho this be to me a loss of *one half dollar pr Copy*, yet as they were sent to my order, and some expense & risk might be incur[d] by a return of them, I sh[d] not feel myself perfectly at ease to send them back, unless, orders subsequent to this date, were transmitted. As Charlotte Temple, the Jest & Song books, the School d[o], come under the same predicament I am content, since they *are here*, to vend *them* for you at the rate of commission specified, 25 pr Cent — Yesterday, after classing these books, I thought that, rather than give the expence and risk of returning them I w[d] sell them at *any saving price*. For eight American Preceptors (charg[d] to me 2/9 1/2) I got at the rate of 2/4 apiece. In all my *whole sales*, my profits have been equally, *in most cases*, more moderate. And yet you wonder that I ask a more liberal allowance — However you have my determination, from which, in all other cases, I shall never recede — I desir'd you to send me some Columb. Spell[g] books. A box of 4 or 500 at [*a*] time will do.

L. & F. Vol. 39.

Dumf. April 3[d]. 1801

Sir. Yesterday I was in Fredericksb[g] — In the course of a few hours got several subscriptions for Bible & sold books to the amount of —25 Dol which I shall this moment pay unto M[r]. Brundige.

Shall be glad to know when the Bibles will be ready for delivery. Some complain that they are high; but if they be *well finish[d]*, you may find your account in the undertaking.

L. & F. Vol. 39.
DUMF Apr 14, 1801

SIR — Yesterday week I p[d] Mr. Brundige ..... 25.
Today I pay him 15

Last week I set out to Alexandria with books, but the roads, near the town, were impassible, so that I was oblig[d] to leave my carriage & books, all but a few carried in my great & close coat pockets; hence I did next kin to nothing — Shall set out in two hours, not in a better direction, but on better Roads, &, I hope, with better success. You shall hear from me in 14 days.

[FROM CAREY] *L. & F.*
PHILAD[a]. April 14, 1801.

. . . Be that as it may, I shall never allow you more than was stipulated at our last agreement. If that allowance is inadequate to support you, in the name of heaven try some other line of Business.

. . . There was a time when I had great expectations of success & advantage from your exertions. Relying on that, I did not avail myself of my own energies. That time is past & gone forever. I have directed my Business into Channels, which create less solicitude & whence the returns are more prompt. The experience of the past [*destroys my?*] desire of future dealings. I have no objections to proceed — but I entertain no wish. You think me too credulous & irritable. I think you griping insatiable, and void of even the faintest spark of generosity in your dealings. I suspect you would not have a scruple about squeezing every farthing of the profit of our intercourse & even part of the principal. This opinion I ground on the abandoned & (I might add) dishonest price at which you took Goldsmith from me — a price which robbed me of every farthing of recompense for many months hard labor, & the expenditure of 1,000 Dollars. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 42.
DUMF. Ap. 27. 1801.

SIR. . . . As to yours of today's receipt I have but a word to say — I wish entirely to square the yards with you before I venture again on that perilous Sea where (thro mutual mismanagement I suppose) we have had the ill luck to meet one of those cursed gales which blow no body *good*. Ergo, I think it best to take no books of you at least for the

Present, but such as will *sell readily*. Viz. the follow^g School books . . . [*A list follows.*]

As I shall exert myself to vend these to the academies in the neighbourg Counties I take it for granted you will put them, as usual, low. There are 4 Academies within 60 miles, these I shall visit & from personal acquaintance with the Tutors, shall probably be able to sell you a good many books.

As to the Bible, My prospects are, that I shall sell a great many — I put a paper into the hands of a Gentleman (Clerk to one of my Churches) who yesterday shew^d me his list 28. The Gentleman is rich & honest as the bank —. I give one for 8 & taught by past sad experience, shall never put my books into any but GOOD HANDS. As I give one for 8 you must perceive that I shall make no great thing on them even at 6 Dol pr copy. I wish to God you w^d get something of my property 165 Dol from Myers.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

DUMF. May 8. 1801.

MATTHEW [*sic*] CAREY, ESQ^r. Dol

Ten days ago I sent you P'r B[*rundige*] 30

Tho' I have not been from home since yet, thank God, I have got enough to send you now pr B 20

As, thro the goodness of God, I have now the pleas^g prospect of one or two proper tempest-blowing works, *Just suited to my* canvass, I wish much to clear the decks and coil up the slack cordage of our old dealings, that I may have my ship in good trim to receive the com^g blast. I don't expect the shock till next year, some time. Before then, by good management, I may be very snug. The saleable books of yours, now [*illegible, by?*] me, I hope to sell soon as Deucalion's watery times shall pass away. Those sales will amount well. Then I shall return perhaps 400 Dol. worth of books from Eastern shore, Petersburg. &c. By Christmass I shall receive 500 Dol from 3 Churches, fees, Hymeneal & funereal &c. *uncounted*. Now, I beg your advice. Dont you think I had better instantly, turn my Mentors & Death of Abel now lying with

you & Robertson [1] the Binder, into an assortment of *readily whole sale* books? A Friend of mine, will help me to 200 Dol, w^h^ you know, will go a good way into binding them. I will come up to Philad^a^ & spend a week in making my exchanges, and by thus having a 1000 Dol worth of more saleable books to work with, I may soon, *with my ways & means above mention'd*, square our yards entirely. Especially as I mean to make a great sacrifice *for cash*. You saw me offer my Mentors (to the little French Jew) [2] for 5/ & you know I let my Washingtons escape me 50 pr Cent shorn of their retail fleeces. I am poor, but honest, son of Erin dear. Ergo I am entitled to good counsel. But tho low, I hear a voice that whispers of better times. Times when I shall see my name to *books* & *paintings* that shall best fulfill the ends of Printing. What says the Bible? I have gotten a great many subscribers, who wish to know when they may certainly expect their books. If you approve my plan of bind'g my books (which are *now useless*) & of exchanging & turn^g^ them speedily into a stout sum, let me know, and also be so good as to set Robertson about them as far at least as 200 Dol. will bind; for within 15 days after you shall inform that they are ready, I will, if alive and well, be with you with the money, 200 Dol.

Wishing you health & happiness I remain

Your Ob^t^

[From Carey]

L. & F. Vol. R.

Philad^a^. May 10, 1801.

. . . You ask my advice, respecting a visit to this city. I am in favour of it. You could exchange many of your Books to advantage. Besides it might then be determined, on what terms our Connexion is to continue, if at all. I am sick to death of so many interruptions.

The Bible is not yet at press; but will be in the course of next week. It will be finished in about 5 months.

Your o^t^ h^ble^ Serv^t^

Your directions for binding must be accompanied with Cash to pay for it.

[1] 'Robertson Duncan bookbinder next 103 north Sixth st' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1800, LC. A coincidence possibly (see letter of Oct. 15, 1801, and *f.n.*) but more probably an error, as is confirmed by *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS. See also *Addenda*.

[2] Probably John Bioren.

L. & F. Vol. 42.
DUMF. May 21, 1801.

SIR, The prospect of the Nuptials (*to day to be solemnizd*) of a pair of my most respectable parishoners has kept me at home 12 days save a little flight to Fredericksbg where in a couple of hours I collected 20 Dol which Today or tomorrow I shall pay to Mr B[*rundige*]. You say that for three months past I have gone on at the snail slow remittance rate of 1.25, or 1.50 pr day. 'Tis astonishing that a Gentleman, M. Carey Esqr. by name, liberal to others as a Diamond rock, sh'd as a skin'd flint be niggardly to me.

But mark my payments from the Ides of March to the Vigints of May. . . . [*A list of $350 follows.*]

Thus, in little better than 2 months, Dol. 305. Or upwards of 4 Dol pr day. But sat pretœ liberant. Your letters are before me. I shall come up to Philada but not possibly sooner than 4 weeks. The roads now getting to be good, I shall Monday next set out with Guthrie. Allow me 25 pr Cent and make up 2,000 Dollars worth of Law, Physic, History & SCHOOL BOOKS, for Green Fredericksbg and I'll so order matters as to *Security*, *Orders*, *Cooperations* &c. &c. that Fredericksbg shall be a Sicilian Cornucopy to your Market street Rome, and this same Green a Semper Viridis to the Family of the Careys. But, alas! You only *talk of Economies*.

[To THOMAS JEFFERSON]

LC.
[*N.d. June 6, 1801.*]

HIGHLY HONOR'D SIR.

Herewith I send your Copy of the American Edition of Blairs Sermons, which you were so good as to patronize; and for which you *paid*. I have taken upon me to circulate moral and Religious books among the People, with which I know that your Excellency as the Father of the People, is not displeased — Bishop Maddison, Mr. John Dickinson and Doctor Wharton have set me on a good work I.E. to reprint, if possible, a large and cheap American Edition of the Good Old Bishop Wilson's[1] Works — I am not ignorant of the services which your Ex-

[1] Weems' allusion to Bishop Wilson probably refers to Rt. Rev. Thomas Wilson, D.D., bishop of Sodor and Man. 1663–1755. His *Private Meditations and Prayers*, or *Sacra Privata*, were published in Cambridge, Mass., 1804, Trenton, N. J., 1805, BPL.

cellency has had the happiness to render to my Country, and hope you will not be angry with me for saying that I have gratitude enough earnestly to wish to make your Excellency a present of an Elegant Copy of the above very valuable work — Your Excellency's name will greatly help our Undertaking, and so render a real Blessing to our Country as well as a lasting obligation on

Your Excellency's sincere well wisher

MASON L. WEEMS

I am not very superstitious, but have this work so much at heart, that if your Excellency sh[d]. frown on it, it may make me unhappy at times, as I sh[d]. be afraid that God Almighty does not think me worthy of such an honor.

[FROM THOMAS JEFFERSON] *LC.*

June 12, 1801.

I have duly recieved your favor of the 6th inst. it happened that at an early period of life, when I had time to read, & was in the habit of acquiring books, D[r]. Blair's sermons becoming a subject of conversation in society, I mistook them for the sermons of a Mr. Blair, of the Virginia family published some 50 or 60 years ago, which I possessed & thought little of. I was not sensible of my misapprehension till some [*time after*] I had become so immersed in public business as to have no [*leisure*] for [*books*] hence it has happened that I have never read, or even seen, D[r]. Blair's sermons; and consequently am unable to attest their merit myself. I have heard them generally commended and from my knowledge of [*other*] work of his, I have no doubt of their excellence, that they are worthy of [*being put*] on a line with [*Sterne*] & Enfield [. . . *moral* . . .] same character. I believe firmly with you in the . . . [*?*] connection between virtue & happiness; that the . . . [*?*] and that virtuous hearts are produced by [*exercising*] the mind . . . [*?*] and contemplating good moral writings. the publication of these [*sermons*] cannot therefore but be publicly useful: and I regret that I can bear witness to it only in the ordinary way of subscription. the work . . . [*?*] has too much celebrity to need the commendations of any individual. Its character is not unknown to any who will be disposed to reading of that kind. wishing you . . . [*?*] sincerely & therefore success in your undertaking I tender you assurances of my consideration from:

TH. JEFFERSON

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 42.

Dumfries!!! July 4, 1801

Sir. I've bad news to tell you — But be not alarm[d]. Parson Weems is not yet Bankrupt, nor will [,] health & Life preserv[d] wrong you of a Sous But still I cry bad News. I expected about this time to be in Philad[a]. but here I am on my beam ends, where I've been between a fortnight labouring under the most excruciating imposthumation that ever distorted the hard gritting alias, teeth gnashing countenance. 10 days before I was taken, I went over to my Brother a Wealthy man to get 200 Dol. for my Philad[a] trip; but just setting out to the Gennasee he cou'd not, at *that time*, supply my wants. Thus have I lost 3 weeks!!! Which to my feelings, is worse than inflamation. However, amidst my tortures I push'd about as far as Fauquier Court house where I got 30 Dol. these with some that I intend to borrow shall make my viaticum. I am Pleas[d] with the specimen of the Bible. Have great numbers of Subscribers. I have been in circumstances, that, more than corporeal pain, demand commiseration. A Mr Henderson [1] (on part of poor Campbell deceas[d]) has importun'd me for money. I was oblig[d] to pay him 200 Dol. w[h] I had a thousand times rather have sent to you, however it approximates me to that happy time when I shall owe nobody but yourself. I have a letter from B. Washington (alis Judge W) begging me to assist him in that *great work* of his Uncle, the Immortal George. I shall try to get it into your hands, it may make our fortunes & also furnish a good field for us to figure on.[2]

At Christmass I shall have lost a 12 month — because, in a fit of Despondence, the effect of your Veto's, I went and engag'd to preach till that time in 3 Parishes.

However, my passion for books continues, and if I do not something Great yet, I shall deceive & be deceiv[d]

[1] Perhaps Angus Cameron, who was evidently a handy man for Carey, since several bills around 1804–1806 (and probably later) show him particularly as making boxes (perhaps for shipping the books) but also doing such jobs as 'hanging a lamp . . . draer in the kitching table . . . Ironing bourd & a place fore it' etc. *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 20, 319, AAS. See also *Addenda*.

[2] Carey had no participation in this work, for which later Weems sought subscriptions for its publisher, Wayne. See p. 195, note 1.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

FREDERICKSBG. July 15. 1801.

SIR. My imposthume, thanks to the divinity of Temperance! my imposthume is gone and I am here. I have got 20 dollars more in addition to my quondam 30

Green says he has *no application for the Columbian Spell'g book.* I can in two hours sell you twenty dozen of them. I shall on the 29th Inst. be darting thro this place. If you wish to have the money (£12.10–) for 20 dozen, desire him (*as speedily as possible*) to let me have 20 Doz. on paying him *10£* Virginia Currency.

My subscribers for the Bible are *Numerous* & *Clamorous.* I shd be happy to have nothing to do for you but in the Subscriptioneering way for *Large Books.* I am as sure, as moral sure can be, that I shd make a fortune for Carey & Weems. Tell Green at w't I may have Scotts Lessons & Enticks Dictionary, the lowest touch, *Cash, cash.*

I shall come on to Philada as soon as I can possibly receive a quantum of tribute money for you.

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DUMFRIES August 1, 1801.

SIR. Uncertain how soon or how late I may visit yourMetropolis I begin again to remit. Accept therefore of 50 Dol. pr Brundige yesterday. Of these 50 charge 40 to Book a/c The other 10 to 6 dozen Columbian Spellg books wh I took day before yesterday of Green Fredericksburg. I hope this will not displease you. Perhaps it may please, for houses are liable to burn, and there are Land Rats & Water Rats, Air Rats & Fire Rats, i.e. Rats Elemental, warring against books, whence I inferd that you had rather have them in the Alcohol of Gold than in the Caput mortuum of Neglected books; for Green told me he cou'd sell none. There has been a Pedlar about with Dilworth at 9/ Virga pr dozen. And many of the Merchants have gotten of him. But as it is not every Pedlar that is so Omnipresent as myself I can vend you a great many. However if this thing please you not, let me know, & I shall never more lay hand upon them.

I lost the last week in waiting for a sight of Judge Washington, on

the score of his Uncles Memoirs.[1] That Great Work will not be ready earlier than the Spring.

I am pushing the sale of the Remainder of Blair's Sermons. M^r Jefferson is my Patron, & Subscriber for several Copies. I am also just about to get out Subscriptions for a *New History* of *Virginia;* for w^h I have good reason to expect large Countenance from the Public.

So that I hope with God's blessing which I fail not, David like, seven times a day to implore, in twelve months from this date to write myself that happiest of All men, A Free Man, God Grant!

The People are clamorous for the Bible. I hope to be able to pay for your Bibles as I *get them*, 20, 30, 40, and 50 Copies, as I get them.

It w'd be greatly to your interest to push Postley,[2] & Other Debtors for Goldsmith — also Solomon Myers, who will print for you. I cannot yet see them, as my Pastoral Chain is but short.

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DUMFRIES Aug. 10. 1801.

SIR. Soon as the rain held up on Wednesday I made a run to Fredericksb^g, and in two hours sold fifteen dozen Columbian Spell^g books. The proceeds, 25 Dol. with 5 of my own, I, last night p^d to Brundige — 30 Dol. I do not wish you to send me any books, untill my present debt to you shall be discharg^d; but as two, out of three of my Parishes, are very clamorous for Prayer books, if you wou'd *deposite with Brundige or Green* 4 doz. Prayer books and 10 doz. Columb^a Spelling d^o I w^d *pay for them as I took them.* My Numerous Subscribers to Bible, are very solicitous (accord^g to the Editors promise) to have their *names inserted;* that the Children of future days may see that their fathers have not lived in vain. Myers owes me 164 Dol. w^d God you w^d do something with him. The Memoirs of Washington are going on under the hands

[1] *The Life of George Washington, Commander in Chief of the American Forces, during the War which established the Independence of his Country, and first President of the United States. Compiled under the inspection of the Honourable Bushrod Washington, from Original Papers bequeathed to him by his Deceased Relative, and now in Possession of the Author. . . .* By John Marshall . . . Philadelphia: Printed and Published by C. P. Wayne, 1804–1807. (*Bibliography, title 249.*)

[2] One reference to this name is Col. John Postly, Worcester Co., Maryland, as one of the subscribers whose names appear in Carey's edition of Guthrie's *Geography*, 1794–1795, LC. He also appears in the *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 5: 1590, AAS. See also *Addenda.*

of the Chief Justice. I shall, as soon as I can procure money, come up; but uncertain when. How go on the engraving[s] for the bible? What News from Postley &c?

Your Obt.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad[a]. Aug. 17, 1801.

. . . Never was there a more absurd or losing game than I have played with you. On 1200 copies of Goldsmith's animated nature, I had not a single shilling profit. You squeezed it out of me at first cost — or less. You had three dollars & a quarter by each of them. For my labour, trouble expense, & risque, I had not a dollar — nor, as I have just stated, a single shilling. Yet, afterwards, & that very lately, when you were retrospecting to past times, & referring obviously to these transactions, you had the modesty to assert that I had nearly ruined you. When, after the number was furnished, that was originally agreed upon, I raised the price one dollar, you murmured as much as if I had robbed you. Whereas, every dictate of honour & honesty ought to have made you spurn at the idea of taking any man's labour without recompense.

But the most irksome & vexatious circumstance attending our dealings, is, the manner & condition in which my property is returned. It would not be of much importance, coud I keep a clerk to settle your acc[t]. alone; but as I cannot afford that, it is intorable to have the business managed in this never-ending way. Five years have not sufficed to return my unsold Books; and at the rate you go on, five & five & forty may not be enough.

A certain fatality has attended almost everything of mine in which you have had any concern. To pass over the laws, Burkitt, & other things, what a ruinous Business have I made with respect to the prayer Book. At your instance, I took 1000 copies of that; & am obliged to furnish Bibles for them! They are like to remain on my hands as dead a stock as [*Frasier's?*] Algebra.

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Dumf. Aug. 24. 1801,

. . . Mortally as I hate the law yet gladly w'd I wade thro Coke, Blackstone & a whole library of Reports rather than follow Mathew Carey thro the Serpentines of his Zig Zag Apologetics. You harp still, & will I believe for ever harp — on what? Why, on my acceptance of your own Offer in the Affair of Goldsmith at 7 1/2 Dollars p[r] Copy. And on my

Observing, in my usual simplicity, that the Cross eye of the Public cou^d hardly see any difference between 7 1/2 & 8 dollars, you had the conscience to gobble up the odd half dol. p^r Copy, which multiplied by 12, or 14,00 Copies w^d make a pyramid of dollars sufficient to throw a shade over half the continent of my debts. And yet Oh murder'd Ghosts of my dollars! Mathew Carey not content with burying you all in the mile deep dust of his extortion is continually abusing your already too much abused Lazarite Lord. And then lest so noble a monument of modesty shou'd want a suitable top stone you add that because you put only a dollar advance on certain of the rear guard Copies, "I *murmur^d Just as if I had been robb^d.*" I want to know when you w^d have me to murmur. But as I dont like to look back on losses I sh^d never have turn^d my eye that way had you not now compell^d me, and even this stricture is meant but to convince you that u have lost sight of many of the most prominent features in the picture. But still u go on to assert that I have near hand min'd u, and actually carry the Joke so far as to cite Burkitt, the Laws, and the Dear knows what, in proof!! And yet the Lord knows & so does M. Carey that I am just as innocent of all this as the Babe of Bethlehem. For I never desir'd nor advis'd such purchases. I curse the old ground of complaint. My heart sickens at the very thought of it and will therefore never more go over it. But yet let me add; valedictorily, that as I hope for mercy in my last gasping moments, a part, and a very melancholy part of all the monies I owe u, I owe u in consequence of parcelling out (rather than drive them back to you) among faithless Merchants, that cataract of unsolicited and unsaleable books w'h u precipitated on me with such fatal fury. And now when all other sources of malediction have fail'd u, u r pleas^d to fall on me about the prayer books. And yet I have told u that if u will but send 100 Copies with 10 doz Columb. Sp^gs to Green & the same number to Brundige I will soon vend them for you; on the safe & pleasant terms of paying at taking. . . .

If you will put the Prayer books, neat binding and low, I shall vend a great many for you. If you will keep with *Green* a stout supply of Scott's lessons, Dictionaries, (Enticks & Sheridan's)[1] Pilgrims Progress,

[1] Sheridan, Thomas, 1719–1788. *A complete dictionary of the English language.* London, 1797, LC.

Rippon's hymns & Charlotte Temple & allow me 25 pr Cent, I shall sell a great many.

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Philad[a]. Aug. 21, 1801.

. . . Among the articles promised to be added to the Bible are two or three, which you were to furnish. As the Index is in hands, I shall very soon want those things which are to follow it immediately. I therefore request you to without delay dispatch them.

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Dumfries. Sept 2. 1801

Sir. . . . I have not been acollect'g these 12 days. *Thank God* my two treatises on Marriage (the happiness of) have caus[d] me to be sent for, far and near, the grand Porter at the Hymeneal Vestibule.[1] Their douceurs of gratitude often make a Corps de reserve for remittance. This week my fees (grace au dieu) makes nearly 20 Doll[s]

Mr Brundige brings you en dedans two morceaus promis[d] to our Subscribers. "The Clergymans address" [2] taken from a Dublin paper — and, "the Portrait of a true Apostolic Preacher," from Cowper. The *latter*, everybody who has read it, must pronounce excellent. The former *I* think not less excellent, not merely because it comes from the country of Goldsmith & Carey. My Wife, a good chimney Critic, says tis very good.

As to the Subscribers names; I sent you, from New Jersey, the fruit of 4 weeks glorious toil, about 350. I now send you upwards of 260. I have a *great* many more on papers in the hands of the Clergy, on *one* no fewer than *70!* You may rest assur[d] that I shall be Good for 1000 Copies. And if you cou'd *spare them* I cou'd in ten weeks time *Secure* the sale of 1500 which is all that you have to spare.

M[r] Robertson the Binder inform[d] me last week that I had engag[d] him to bind me the whole of my Mentors 1000 Copies for the payment whereof, I was to make arrangements with you. It *may* be so, but I remember it not. He has it seems bound nearly 50£ worth, and with

[1] His own *Hymens* (Nos. 1 and 2).

[2] *A Clergyman's Address to Married Persons at the Altar.* This, and the selection from Cowper, were both included in Carey's 1801 quarto edition of the Bible, and subsequently. (See *Bibliography, title 248.*)

great conciseness threatens to take a very summary way of paying himself. I wish you w[d] be so good as to tell him that I shall be up in Philad[a] about the middle of the next month and shall bring money in purse for him.

I want to see you before the great launch (of the Bible) Inclos[d] I send you a list of books from my friend Girardin [1] the fam[d] French Teacher.

If you cou'd deposit with Brundige all the first list (the *School* books) I w[d] take & pay as I went on 25 pr Cent.

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ALEXANDRIA. Sep. 21, 1801.

SIR. I was Thursday in Fredericksb[g] where I sold some of my own books. &[c]. . . .

I have to inform that M[r] Rob[t] Gray [2] Editor, Book binder & Seller

[1] *Ad.* Proposals for publishing by subscription *Nature Displayed*, with a letter of recommendation at the end from L. H. Girardin, 'an eminent Professor of French, and Lecturer of History and Geography, in William and Mary College, State of Virginia. . . .' *Virginia Express* (Fredericksburg), Nov. 17, 1803, AAS. — Girardin's translation of a French history by De Croisœuil advertised in the *Petersburg Intelligencer* (Virginia), Sept. 20, 1805 *et seq.*, HU. — His academy at Richmond, Va., advertised widely in local papers, particularly the *Virginia Argus*, 1809–1811. — 'A List of Dead and Missing [*in the Richmond Theatre fire of Dec. 26, 1811*] . . . Mrs. Girardin & child . . .' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Dec. 30, 1811, AAS. — A long article, expressing thanks to citizens of Richmond for help and solace after disaster of the Richmond Theatre fire, dated Richmond, Jan. 29, 1812, and signed (among others) by L. H. Girardin. *Ibid.*, Feb. 3, 1812, AAS. — 'Circular. — L. H. Girardin, labouring at present under an obstinate malady, and unable, besides, to recover that calm and serenity of maid [*mind*], which the instruction of youth requires . . .' gave notice that he was going to 'retire from his present employment' on the last day of the current month, and recommended his successor to the public, Mr. Francis Power. His house on Capitol Hill, where the school had been held, to be used for a time and then the school removed to suitable quarters. *Ibid.*, Feb. 6, 1812, AAS. (See also the issues of Jan. 13, 1812 *et seq.*, for an advertisement in the same strain.) — L. H. Girardin announced his intention of going to work on his long contemplated book the *Natural History of Virginia* (now doubly necessary as a solace to his mind) and solicited material from any who had it in the vicinity or elsewhere. *Ibid.*, Feb. 24, 1812, AAS. — *Ad.* 'For Sale. The small farm on which the subscriber now resides . . . The terms will be accommodating. Apply to L. H. Girardin. Glenmore, near Milton, Albermarle County, Va.' *Ibid.*, Aug. 24, 1814 *et seq.*, AAS. — 'Girardin, Lewis H. principal of the Baltimore College, Mulberry, Cathedral st' *Baltimore Directory*, 1822, MDHS.

[2] Robert and John Gray advertised extensively, from their shop on King-Street, Alexandria, Va., in the *Alexandria Advertiser* for 1803, AAS.

is or soon will be on his way to Philad[a]. He is willing that I shou'd mention him to you. w[h] I do with a great deal of pleasure, as a young man of such *Industry* & *Sobriety* and Honor that we want but more like him to create a Philad[a] on the Potowmac.

Tho' I am but slightly acquainted with him, yet from that acquaintance I scruple not to say he is a Young Gentleman worthy your attention

[From Carey] *L. & F.*

Philad[a]. Sept. 23, 1801.

. . . The Bible draws very fast to a close, there not being above three weeks work to do on it at present, & I feel seriously alarmed respecting the articles assuredly promised in the proposals. N[os]. 8, 9, & 13, I neither have nor do I know where to find them. Let me, therefore, request your immediate attention to this Business.

It will be necessary if you visit us this fall, to be on your guard against an arrest, which, I have strong reason to suspect, is designed for you.

Philad[a]. Sept. 28, 1801.

. . . I have purchased the types of Gaine's School Bible, standing; [1] and, if our old acc[t]. can be finally settled, when you come here, I shall have no objection to furnish you with thousands of them yearly, as well as the common school Testament.

Let me hear from you without delay.

[1] 'About the time when I had the Quarto Bible set up, I purchased of Hugh Gaine of New York, the School Bible, for, as far as I can recollect, seven thousand dollars.' Quotation from Mathew Carey in *A List of Editions of the Holy Scriptures Printed in America Previous to 1860*, E. B. O'Callahan, Albany, 1861, p. xlvii, lc.—Hugh Gaine is called the oldest bookseller in the United States in *History of Philadelphia*, Scharf & Westcott, Vol. I, p. 512, lc. See also *Hugh Gaine, Printer*, Paul Leicester Ford, New York, 1902.—'Do you recollect that peculiar attempt of Hugh Gaine to ride two horses in opposite directions during the Revolution? At a time when Providence seemed to be smiling upon the patriot cause, the politic printer issued a copy of "The New York Gazette; and the Weekly Mercury," Saturday, September 21, 1776, No. 1301, with the imprint: "Printed by Hugh Gaine, at Newark, in East New-Jersey." It is practically a broadside, being a folio of only one page. This paper was continued until November 2, 1776, the respective numbers being 1302, Saturday, September 28; 1303, Saturday, Oct. 5; 1304, Saturday, Oct. 12; 1305, Saturday, Oct. 19; 1306, Saturday, Oct. 26; 1307, Saturday, November 2, all the issues after 1301 being printed on a quarto leaf, 2 pages. At the same time, the paper continued to be issued at New York with the same series of numeration, but on different days and dates, number 1301, Monday,

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DUMFRIES. Sept. 28, 1801.

SIR. I am surpris[d] that tables N° 8 & 9, sh[d] have given you a moments uneasiness. They are in some one or more of that grand caucus of Bibles which you caus[d] to be held at No 118 when you contemplated this Bible crusade. I don't know that N°. 8 bears, in your bible, the title which we chose to give it "*a curious analytical &c.*", but you may easily apprehend it by these marks; it is a mere bobtail'[d] thing, and its fort lies in telling "how many *chapters*, *verses*, *words*, *syllables*, *and letters* there are in the Bible; which is the *shortest*, which the *longest*, and which the *middle chapter* in D°.[1] And all such goodly discoveries as are fit to make Old Women & Children wonder." However as many of our Readers are of that sort, insert it by all means. To have it said that Carey's bible contains more Curious things than were ever seen in any other bible, wou'd be a great Matter. As to N° 13 [2] I sh[d] have thought myself uncommonly happy in an opportunity to prepare something on that head. The present wretched state of that Country which was once emphatically call[d] "the Land of promise," — "the land flow[g] with milk & honey" furnishes ample matter of the most infuriated Declamation against the curses of Despotism, — as also a precious hint to the People of America. Had I, like you, Leisure evening[*s*] & evenings at home, I shoud rejoice in writing on this subject. But you can do it much better, and have access to more and better materials than I possess, and besides I am constantly travel[g]. But were I to advise I w[d] advise that it sh[d] be very short.

Sept. 30, 1776, a folio of one page; numbers 1302, 1303, 1304 and 1305 were respectively dated Monday, Oct. 7, 14, 21 and 28, and consisted of a folio sheet of 2 pages. All the numbers for October, printed at New York, omitted the name of Hugh Gaine as printer. The Newark paper used expressions favorable to the American cause, referring to the British ships, for instance, as "the piratical fleet." As Providence began smiling on the British cause, toward the end of October, Gaine appears to have thought it was no longer worth while to cater to the patriotic taste, and he resumed the publication of the "Mercury" at his old office in New York. There is some mystery about this transaction. Did he actually, as stated by Ford, "remove part of his presses and types to Newark early in September"? Of course it is quite possible. Did he have two sets of the engraved heading, one for Newark and one for New York, or did he merely print this Newark edition in New York for circulation in New Jersey?' *New Jersey Printers of the 18th Century*, William Nelson, *ProcAAS.*, April, 1911, pp. 45–46.

[1] Entitled 'The Old and New Testament Dissected' in the 1801 quarto edition of the Bible by Carey, and subsequently.

[2] The last article in most of Carey's quarto Bibles, being a description, largely geographical, of 'Judea, Palestine, or the Holy Land.'

You have no doubt seen how my little Son of the goosequill has sped; how on the wings of the Newspapers he has travell'd from Augusta to the Province of Maine? I mean my primo [*genus?*] my political Placebo, my aristocratico-Democratico political Anodyne, "*The Philanthropist.*" Well, were I able to print, I shou'd in 8 weeks have ready for the press a piece that w^d^ set on edge the cursed teeth of Tyranny, but sooth & comfort the nerves of all honest Republicans. Tis written, "on the Excellencies of a Republican Government."[1] A view is exhibited of the *Nature* of a Republic, in order you see to guard our beloved Profanum Vulgus against the wiles of our Tavern-table & Cyder cask Demagogues — To attach to it, the affections of the People, its peerless beauties are display^d^, and to heighten those Beauties, they are contrasted with the Deformities & Horrors of Monarchy. The Gratitude due for such a Gov^t^. such a Cœlo-descended Governm^t^, and the fine Virtues which we shou'd cultivate in order to give it Sempeternal duration, form the rear of this work. What think you of it? May it not do great good? What, — however I shall conclude. I set out tomorrow to collect all the money I can for you.

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DUMF. Octob. 15. 1801

SIR, On the 25^th^ I am, by appointment, to be at Philadelphia. But I find that I cannot finish my *parochial collections* before the 26^th^. On the day following, Deo Volente, I set out. You will do me better than a 1000 Ave Mari's, by mentioning this to Robinson the Binder,[2] for whom I shall bring money and for you also. I deposited lately in the hands of M^r^. Brundige, a stout parcel of your books, those chiefly of

[1] *The Philanthropist; or, a good Twenty-five Cents Worth of Political Love Powder, for Honest Adamites and Jeffersonians: With the following recommendation by George Washington.* Rev. Sir, . . . *With respect I am, Rev. Sir, Your most obedient Humble Servant Geo. Washington. . . . God prosper long these sister States. In mind, health and peace, and grant henceforth that quarrels vile, 'Twixt A's and D's may cease. Nor Gaul nor Brit, need dear Columbia rue, If but Columbia to Herself be true!* By the Rev. M. L. Weems (of Lodge No. 50). Dumfries. The pamphlet is undated, but all the evidence points to its having first been printed in 1799. I have found this advertised from Salem, Mass., to Charleston, S. C., but not as far north as Maine.

[2] 'North Sixth Street . . . 105 Duncan Robinson, book binder' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1801, LC. Probably an error for Robertson, see note 1 to letter of May 8, 1801.

the small fry and Nightingale sort. My reason — the Bible will soon be in the water and the pilotage of such a man of war will be both honorable & lucrative. Subscriptions for large costly books (Bible's e,g, and another which I have to communicate to you) shall be my "hoc Opus, et, hic labor est." — This moment I set off for Fredericksb^{g}. . . . My object, M^{r} Carey is to get, aussitot que possible, into the *Grand subscription* line, which I have not the shadow of a doubt but will be infinitely Beneficial to the World, and highly soothing to the Sentiments and fattening to the purses of M. Carey and

M. L. Weems.

Dont forget to tell Robinson. Why sh^{d} he without my orders bind my books & then without orders sell them? especially when I have the money.

As to the School Bibles & testaments, if you will give me a moiety of that business I'll do *great things* for you, in connexion with the Family Bible & other Heavy books.

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Dumf. Octob. 27. 1801

Mathew Carey Esq^{r}. Absent, last week on a Journey to Richmond, I saw nothing of your winged Messengers of interrogation till this moment. And this moment I sit down to ask, why Son of Erin from the fount and fountain of types presses & printing, dost thou send for that which nothing but a host of Bibles can inform. Thou hast a host of bibles around thee, and in them verily have I seen all thy hearts desire "the passages &^{c}. quoted by Christ & the Apostles."

But delay not the bible a moment, for the tables are before thee. Tomorrow I bend forward on the roar of wheels for Philad^{a}. Be so good, so infinitely good as to tell Robertson (the Binder) that tomorrow I rain my cloud of dust on the ecchoing roads.

Yours in haste

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Bristol Nov. 20. 1801.

D^{r}. Sir. I have Sped, thank God for it. I have money but am afraid to send it by mail without your orders. Give me your orders — at your risque mind ye. Write to me to Trenton whither I shall go tomorrow.

For God's sake hurry on the Bible, and well secur'd. Write instantly. In the next boxes send some Advertissements.

God bless you and grant health to

M. L. W.

You must *ensure* the books to Trenton. Do that. and every other risque, toil, danger, cost, & the Lord knows what shall be defray[d] by

Your friend,

L. & F. Vol. 42.

TRENTON. Nov. 23. 1801.

D[r] SIR. I am this moment arriv[d] at place of Date — I have once more to conjure you to give me orders to send you monies pr Mail, at *your risque* — As much I love you — as cordially as I tender [*sic*] your interest I will never send money without *orders at your risk*. I sold 19 Quarto Bibles at *Burlington*. For Heaven's sake hurry on the Bibles — nor longer suffer me to mourn for lack of *Argument*. I hope to do good work here tomorrow.

Your's Affec.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

Nov. 24, 1801.

. . . I foreswear all dealings with you, if you sell a single Bible. Leave your subscribers & take orders. What success with the School Bible & Testaments?

PHIL[a]. Nov. 25, 1801.

. . . I regret that you did not inform me more particularly of your success. I do not admire these obscure hints.

The binding goes on slowly. The binder from the Ridge Road has not yet made his appearance — nor am I certain he will. Hyde,[1] another binder, is sick. The supplies, therefore, for a time will be very moderate. I have now only four copies to serve me till Monday next!

Serve no person whatever, on any acc[t]. but subscribers. Receive as many orders as you can, to be supplied in three or four weeks. . . .

[1] 'Chestnut Street . . . 149 George Hyde, bookbinder' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1801, LC. From 1794 on he had frequent dealings with Carey, either for paper or bookbinding. *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS.

P.S. I wish you to deliver no more of the subscription papers for Sydney till I see you. I am desirous to have my name out of it. I dislike the price. It is an imposition, & must operate considerably against all future subscriptions.

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TRENTON. Nov. 26. 1801.

SIR. . . . Imposition or no imposition I shall keep Sydney [1] at five dollars. If I cou'd vend Sidnies as fast as you vend goose quills, I w^d^ put them at four dollars, but as things now stand they must go at five dollars or not go at all. Your name shall not be seen on any subscription paper save that in my portfolio, nor there any longer than I can get to Philadelphia to have it exchang'd for my own. There is a capriciousness in your character and conduct which will for ever embitter the Soul, and curse the existence of

M. L. WEEMS.

In my next, which will be tomorrow, I shall send you more monies. I shall also be more particular as to sales &c. To be kept thus unexpectedly and so far from my Wife & Children, — in this cold clime & inclement season, — Lugging about a heavy book with light profits and long expenditures, and after all not allow^d^ to eat my poor solitary crust in peace, is enough to make me wish I had been born a butcher's dog, and not a poor dependent on your smiles —

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NOV. 27. 1801. TRENTON.

SIR.

Yesterday I sent you..... 90 Dol.
Today I send you ..... 35.

Tomorrow I shall send more. When you first mentiond the advance of price on the Bible, I suggested a difficulty — viz. the indignation which the people wd feel on seeing all their Neighbours possess'd of the *same bible* at *six* dollars for which, they, by subscrib^g^ a flying advertisement, had given *seven*. But to leave that — The propos^d^ advance may do any where

[1] Algernon Sidney's *Discourses Concerning Government*, see note 2 to letter of Jan. 1, 1805.

better than in Trenton or perhaps in New Jersey. Isaac Collins a few years ago printed a Bible which for *correctness* & *beauty*, was hardly ever surpass[d] by Oxford or Cambridge. His cost but 4 Dollars. Well mark the Consequence — "What do you have for your Bible?" says the Man to whom I make a leg with Book & hat: "*Only six dollars Sir*" "Hoot, hoot" quoth he, "why Isaac Collins gives us a Bible for 4"!! "But please to observe, Sir, the style in which this is done: M[r] Collins's was a plain unvarnish[d] edition, Sir; but be so good as to note the valuable improvements w[h] M[r] Carey has made on this — here, Sir, you see is a fine map on Copper plate of the holy land; here, Sir, is Nazareth where Christ was born, here is Cana of Gallilee, where he wrought his first miracle; *here* is a view of the country immortaliz[d] by his travels, labours, &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. And here, Sir, (skipping nimbly from the *Map* to the midst of the psalms) here you see is David the sweet singer of Israel, in the house of God, before the sacred lamps, celebrat[g] the praises of his God, while his applaud[g] courtiers & exulting Angels join their voices Symphonious with his swelling harp — And here, Sir, here at the end of the Apocrypha, is a neat card on which to inscribe your name — And here, Sir, the family Register, and the charm[g] scene of the Nativity, from the celebrated Angelica Kauffmann," and so on, and so on. Well what is my dole for all this? Why he replies, "All this is clever, yes, 'tis clever enough indeed, but I w[d]n't give a fig the more for all that, for it only sarves to make the Children spoil the book, however tho Isaac Collins ax[d] but 4 dol[s] for his'n, here's five doll[s] for your'n." — In my next, I'll tell you someth'g [*new*] — In the interim let me beg you not to lay a veto on my exertions to give as [*wide a*] circulation as possible to this edition, this *your* first edition, and let me add after *you*, this *miserable*, this *garbled* edition, but that's between you & I only. If I am not honest why trust me? And in the name of God, what motive can I have but your interest & that of

M. L. W.

The Bibles you sent (44) are arriv[d] but some of them much rubb[d].

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad^{a}. Nov. 27, 1801.

. . . Your charge of caprice is just as decent & polite as it is correct. I defy you to the proof.

With respect to the price of Sydney I was taken by surprise. I was strongly averse to it. The more I have considered it the more convinced I am of the imposition. I will never have any concern with any work, in the price of which there is not a pointed difference between subscribers & common purchasers. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 42.

Trenton, Nov. 30, 1801.

Sir. . . . Let me conjure you to keep an eye on my friend Sylvester in the affair of pack^{g} the Bibles, otherwise they will be *all ruined*. I have engaged a Wagoner to carry them on from Trenton, in the way I propos^{d}. The friction in a single mile's motion had well near put many of our bibles beyond all reach of hope. What may not be dreaded from 60 miles jolting in a wagon? For Mercy's, for Piety's sake, let them be hard pack^{d}, face downwards, well-bedded in paper shavings on all sides. Why put me to the *trouble of unpack^{g}* them at Trenton? The skippers say there is no risque, but I shall expect you to *ensure* them to this place — *Trenton*. It were well to direct them to *Alexander Chambers*. More care might be taken of them. I have sold about 40 Family Bibles and engag^{d} 1 dozen School bibles. When I pass^{d} thro' this Country 15 months ago, I scarcely left a stall unattempted. What chance have I now of taking in orders at 7 Dol? Perhaps here & there a Runagate from the Country might subscribe, whose face 'tis more than a perhaps, I might never see again. Besides, *Divinity*, especially this which has been so carp^{d} & cavil^{d} at, and w^{h} is already so generally diffus^{d} & engag^{d}, so universally publish^{d} and advertis^{d}, can hardly promise us many more Patrons on this tack — To w^{h} if we add the comparative cheapness of Collin's edition, the unfortunately thin paper & bad appearance of the *first part* of our work — your want of money — my good will to ditto, &c, &c. I say all this put together, and back^{d} with the consideration of "the importance of filling the lockers and gett^{g} all clear for a 2^{d} bout," ought perhaps to incline you to consent that I shall vend all I can at 6 Dol^{s}. — I mean on *this* line *only*.

N.B. When I came to this place I made a brave charge on that heavy Democratic Corps, the Assembly, and hop^{g} to get universal patronage, I offer^{d} at 6 Dol. What was my success? About 10 Bibles!!!! Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant I sold by the armful. Volti —

However, I shall hereafter Obey Orders — if you chuse to vend at 7, I shall vend, *if at all:* But on *this line* I w^{d} advise at 6 — Virginia, Slave hold^{g} Virginia, must pay more.

L. & F. Vol. 42.
Dec. 1. 1801.

Sir, Still Trenton — Trenton — Trenton!! I'm in purgatory; thro' your cruel delays, I'm in Purgatory. Nothing but Bibles; 300 Bibles can ever get me out. In heaven's name when shall I get them???

The wind of winter is howling round the house — My little boy is on the floor playing in my lonely hall — the thought of me comes across his troubl'd Soul; rising he runs to his Mother and with tears w^{h} an Angel w^{d} kiss, he asks when will his father return — Dear boy, w^{d} God thou wer't in heaven, far, far above that cup of Sorrow which *is* and long has been at the lips of thy father.

Children are heavens Orators for Mercy — but shall I say — no M^{r} Carey, I will not say, I am a Protestant; I will not say that therefore no suffering of mine can awaken sympathy, thou w^{dst} scorn me for the bare thought but whence is it that I am kept here a fortnight without a supply?

Yesterday I sent 60 Dol. Now I send 30 Dol. Day after tomorrow, the house adjourns. This moment I receiv'd their approbation on a Motion to deliver before them an Oration [1] tomorrow morn^{g} 9 O'Clock — Tis now 7 O Clock P.M. The Oration points at Sydney.

L. & F. Vol. 42.
Dec. 3^{d}. Trenton, 1801

Sir. Yesterday morn^{g} 9 O Clock, attended at the State house, where according to the Sois-devant promise was waited on by his Excel-

[1] *The True Patriot: or An Oration, on the Beauties and Beatitudes of a Republic; and the Abominations and Desolations of Despotism. With an Affectionate Persuasive to the American People, to Fear God, and to Honor their Rulers: to Love One Another, and to Beware of Discord.* By the Rev. M. L. Weems (*Bibliography, title 173*).

lency — Gov^{r} Bloomfield & the honorable House of Legislature to whom I had the honor of address^{g} an Oration.

"On the Nature & Excellencies of a Republic" [1]

Their Attentions (I mean, of their aforesaid Honorables & Excellents) in coming; their attentions in hearing, and their Attentions after hearing, were flattering passing flattering in-deed. Scarcely had I quitted the Rostrum, before I was surrounded by the Members, the Gov^{r} a leur tête. The Gov^{r} press^{d} my fist — thank^{d} me for my performance — insisted I sh^{d} print it; his Excellency's proposition was seconded, thirded &^{c}. &^{c}. by the Hon'ble the House. Quid multis? The Gov^{r} without my knowledge got out a Subscription paper, & presented it to the Council who desir^{d} 50 Copies. Of the Lower house, some took 12, some 24 Copies apiece. I believe I cou'd easily have gotten 500 Copies engag^{d}. Din^{d} yesterday with his Excellency. — Have a card to the Assembly this Evening. Start tomorrow Morn^{g} for Princeton with 25 Bibles. Shall return Saturday to meet the Sacred flotilla. I am greatly a loser, in consequence of not hav^{g} been appris^{d} of this Jersey expedition, had I bro^{t} a handsome edition of N^{o} 2 of "Hymen's recruiting Serjeant" I might have made my fortune — The Legislature Old & young, married & single, took of No 1. The Ladies here, to a man, are the friends of its Ghostly Author.

Day before yesterday,

Sent you	30 Dol's
Now, ...	35 d^{o}.
Monday	60
Tuesday	30
	155 D.
On friday hope to send	100
	255

Have already had application to print my book in this place. May God Almighty make me very useful, is my Constant Prayer. But I must turn Democrat & shake the bell under Carroll's [1] cassock, e'er I can hope for your very hearty Co-operation. Two weeks here &, not a Bible yet to go on with!!!

[1] 'John Carroll, cousin of Charles of Carrollton, a Jesuit, founded the University of Georgetown and the Cathedral at Baltimore; in 1808 he was appointed the first archbishop of that

N.B. Some of the Bibles have no family record!!! Let the records be always plac'd between the title page of New Testam't & the Nativity. Some complain that the edges of the paper are cut too rough; — One for Brunswick must be bound in Calf —

L. & F. Vol. 42.

TRENTON, Dec. 5. 1801.

Bless[d] be God — Amen! say I — I am still you see at Trenton. . . . Thus have I, in 17 days, p[d] you 520 [*Dol.*] But it availeth me nothing — God forgive me, but there appears to be a lack of his Benediction in most of my toils in your service. Some black cloud, some untimely frost comes upon all my blossoms and dashes them down nipt & blasted to the earth. Here I am in a strange land, on much expence, and not a Book (Bible) to bless myself withal. A few days more & the river is cover[d] with fields of ice, and then I shall have to come & go, come & go, for half the Winter I suppose. Were my plans vigorously acted upon, & my activity well fed with fuel, Great things might be done. But your attention is too much broken & diverted from the main object, by the eternal hue & cry that is kept around you. To hear you talk one w[d] think you firmly believ[d] you had *always* been to me as an Angel of God. *In some things you have been so.* But to make you sensible that you have not been so in the following instance, tis necessary only to state it. About 18 months ago I was the Instrument of persuading you that you might make a fortune for one of your children, by the Bible. You had a subscription paper struck; and set me off towards the North, to *try our fortune.* By myself I came out — I enter[d] every house — My success was beyond all expectation!! To such a Reaper the gleanings sh[d] have been sacred. The poor man far from home, far from his Wife and Children — in the Cities of New Jersey (where he had toil[d] so gloriously) bending under the weight of Bibles, might now and then have sold one to a Nonsubscriber — No, that priviledge — poor as it is, he shall not enjoy. Blauvelt [1] shall have a subscription paper, and en-

see.' *Life and Letters of Dolly Madison*, Allen C. Clark, Washington, 1914, LC. — 'Died, at Balto . . . Archbishop John Carroll . . .' *Washington City Weekly Gazette*, Dec. 23, 1815, LC.

[1] The printer, Abraham Blauvelt, publisher of *The Brunswick Gazette, and Weekly Monitor*, from May 4, 1790, to Oct. 30, 1792, when the *Gazette* was succeeded by *The Guardian; or,*

couragement to meet me on the *very field of my fame*, in the midst of my roarings after the bounding Bucks which I had started and to tear the fattest of them from my gripe!!

What dog w^d^ bid his eye to glisten, or wag his tail after such treatment as this????????? The People complain that the Bibles are not neatly enough turn'd off in the binding — too many patches — rough edges to the leaves — Let the Family Records be always plac^d^ between the New Testm^t^ title page & the Nativity. I shall expect them ensur^d^ to Trenton, &, as in our articles, against *fire*, for all the rest if well pack^d^, look to.

turn over

My sorrow is turned to Joy; for the *moment only* I fear. Alass when shall I get any more? I ought to have commenc^d^ this page with telling you that this morning — Dec. 7, 1801, I went down, in a fit of dispair, to Lamberton, where I found 60 Bibles. Remember I've paid you 20 Dol. more than your due. W^d^. God you coud devise some way so to help me out as to save all my Bible Profits. — those I ought to keep sacred, to annihilate my debt to you. Tomorrow I start for *Princeton*, Direct next to me at Brunswic. If you would stand by me, perhaps I may, thro Divine blessing, vend for you 350 more on this tack — for mercy's sake tell me shall I get 300 here, for a start to New Ark?

L. & F. Vol. 42.

TRENTON. Dec. 8. 1801.

Dol.

Last night I sent you — p^r^ Mail 120

. . . I have engaged a wagon and two strong horses — Let me know when I may hope to start with him [*sic*] with 300 Copies. — Tremble at the thought of the Ice close at hand — My clothing is thin — and M^rs^. Weems is often in tears — Send me an odd Family Record — the Bible will not sell without it — Put some mark on the Bible in which you place it. — You had like to have ruin^d^ us by putting the Card on the bottom of the box. Taking that, as every man with two eyes, w^d^ have done,

New-Brunswick Advertiser, issued by Arnett & Blauvelt, and, from the fall of 1793 on, for more than twenty years by Blauvelt alone. *New Jersey Printers of the 18th Century*, William Nelson, *ProcAAS.*, Vol. XXI, p. 34.

for the upper side, I capsiz[d] the box, and so in just bringing them from Lamberton (one mile) had near ruin[d] several of them — It griev[d] me the more as they were so well pack[d] — M[r] Carey the packing of these 300 to come, is an object well worth your attention — What w[d] be your feelings and mine to see Subscribers pouring around us for Bibles, and yet turning away from [*them*] because disfigur[d] by rubbing & chafing. I w[d] God you coud get from (Wallace[1] I think you call[d] him) successor to Robinson,[1] some of my Immortal Mentor and convert them into some saleable books such as Charlotte Temple, Watts Psalms &c &c by the sale of which I may cover my expences in this Crusade — My exertions in your service I hope you will consider as entitl[g] me to a place in your attentions — Be so good as to have a lock put to my little trunk, and therein put my miscellaneous Books which you may be so good as to procure for

M. L. Weems

L. & F. Vol. 42.

Brunswic. Dec. 9, 1801.

Sir. This moment arriv[d] in Brunswic. . . .

Beg Sylvester to have mercy on the word of God, and not to crucify it afresh thro his miserable Carpentership. I give this hint because one of the Bibles is so cripple[d]. by a spike nail, that I must doctor it marvellously indeed if ever I bring it to survive a fair daylight inspection. — God willing I shall be at Trenton night after tomorrow . . . if I cou'd but get Bible ammunition I sh[d] fire many a dollar to Philadelphia this month. — Put your cards on the right sides of the boxes.

If you can, send me some little *popular pieces* in exchange for the Immortal Mentor.

The choice is left to you. Great things may be done if you will but keep me from the Maladie du pays, "the Home Sickness" — hard work is the only specific — . . .

Volti.

I shall take to my bed unless, I find books at Trenton, Saturday.

[1] 'Wallace, John, bookbinder, 127 N. Sixth' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1802, LC. Bills for 1805–1806 show that he was binding *Laws of the United States* and other works for Carey. See *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS. Duncan Robinson disappears from the directories after 1801. See also *Addenda*.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

TRENTON. Dec. 11, 1801.

SIR. . . . I shou'd have remitted from Brunswick, but finding that the Mail from that place to Trenton is carried in a lone Sulky by a single man, or boy, and in the night, I thought it much too unsafe.

One of the Bibles is unsaleable as yet, thro' lack of a Map, another wants the Record a 3^{d} is injur^{d} by a Nail. However I hope to get them off. Certainly I shall have some books to Night or to Morrow. God forbid I sh^{d} not start again on Monday morning.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

PRINCETON. Dec. 17. 1801.

SIR, I got last night to Morrisville where the People stopp^{d} me to preach. — I told them their own very roundly — and they bo^{t} 4 bibles.

. . . If it sh^{d} freeze, w^{t} shall we do? . . . Compts to Dame Partlet & the Chicks.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

PRINCETON. Dec. 19. 1801.

SIR. . . . Detain^{d} to preach *tomorrow* at Kingston I am here by accident. Monday (God willing) I shall set out to Brunswic. I am habitually discontented — the Energies of my mind were not born to lie down discontented under disappointment & depression. I'm unhappy. Not that I sh^{d} so much regard my long distance from home — my melancholy absence from a Wife who loves me, nor yet is it the Weather now *bad* & prospects still worse of Winter's storms & snows. I coud smile under all this, if I had but a prospect of business & Compensation; a prospect of carrying home with me after a winter's campaign, something to comfort my little family. But what is my hope? Why nothing but Delays and Disappointments. Sure expences & slow and uncertain Profits. . . . But see, the River w^{d} now, I suppose, bear a Milestone . . . it was wrong to put so many in one Binders hands. 1800! my fathers! . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 42.
BRUNSWICK. Dec. 22. 1801

All the fat's in the fire again. I suppose you understand thereby that I've sold out —. Yesterday sold 40!!! — five & half dollar Boys, all — ten's for eleven's!! . . . Tomorrow send the ballance from Trenton if I sh[d] not hang myself before I get there. But I'll not complain any more for my hair is much lighter already than when I left home. Now I set off *to trot back again.* The sun shines, tis true, but with no cheerful light. Let the Ants rejoice for they improve his beams. As for me my hands find no work to do.

Beg Dr Tyler to see if the Maps & records accompany the books. In some they are wanting in some they are double — in some the Apostles go upon their feet, in others they are doom[d] to walk upon their heads!!! My God!! But why sh[d] a living Man complain?

L. & F. Vol. 42.
Dec. 23. 1801.

SIR. . . . Dol. 295 sent from Brunswic yesterday.

. . . The amount of 48 brought with me and of . . . 11 found at Lamberton, 59 in toto, making . . . in *five* weeks, which, with my health & activity and Heaven's singular benediction, I might have sold in 5 days: and yet my letters are growling letters, and my demands of a fi'-penny crust to quiet an active stomach that likes not inanition are treated with menace and reproach. I told you I sh[d] stay if I got nothing in addition to my present allowance. I shall stay, but not so contentedly as if I receiv[d] what I think ought to be allow[d] for my delays & expence & infinite trouble. However I shall say no more now, as I suffer a good deal from headach, fatigue & cold, the consequence of riding all day in the rain, from the vicinity of Brunswic.

L. & F. Vol. 42.
TRENTON. Dec. 24. 1801.

SIR. "Humanum est errare," — but to mend his mistake a good man needs but to be shewn it. "I have, say you, but 3 quarters of a dollar and allow you 4, and yet you want more." This kindles your wrath:

faith, no wonder, for if it were so, it were enough to make John the Divine spit bile. But it is not so. I've had 219 Bibles — On each of w^{h}, in place of one dollar, I've receiv^{d} but one half dollar — at least on as many as 98 of them. And if you will but reckon from the 10th of November, since which I've been sometimes working sometimes playing, you will find it 45 days; which, in Oats and hay, beefsteaks & coffee for myself & horse at the very *moderate rate* of 11/3 pr day, make will say, 70 dollars. Now, deduct those 70 Dol^{s}. from the 121 Bibles on which tis suppos^{d} I make one dol. each $\frac{70}{51}$ Dol^{s}. this added to the 49 Dol^{s} made by the 98 Bibles at the rate of half a Dol. for Bible, or 1 for every ten — make 100 Dollars on 219 Bibles. . . . For suppose it sh^{d} take me 4 months (including the two last barren months) to sell 600 Bibles, 'tis plain those Bibles cost me quarter of a dollar each. Yes, at the poor dinnerless diet and ungrog^{d} potations of 11/3 diem for me & horse. Calumny M^{r} Carey, to generous minds is the worst of injuries. I w^{d} risk damnation rather than be guilty of what you charge me with, i,e, a wish to take every farthing of your well earn^{d} gains. No, I only wish^{d} that you, who, "blow high, blow low" are comfortably snug, and sure of your 5/7 / 1/2 pr Copy for your Books, even before they can get time to dry from the press, making at the rate of 12 or 15.00 Dol^{s} pr Annum by my cheerful toils alone, shoud allow me a poor fi'penny bit on each copy, whose pigmy Cents conjoin'd might break in some measure those dreadful shocks which, as above, assail my uncertain profits. . . .

I remember perfectly that you were so pleas^{d} with the Bible scheme at its commencement, that you said you w^{d} allow me a small Gratuity on every Copy throughout the edition. However I relinquish that. But a fi'penny bit on each copy and the delivery of 250 at Brunswic is a requisition that appears rational to

M. L. Weems

. . . fatigued & chilly with riding all day yesterday in the Rain, I lie by to-day; tomorrow sees me again in my harness.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

TRENTON. Dec. 25. 1801.

SIR. . . . Hope to vend some to-morrow at Masonic Meeting 16 Miles from this — Woud it not be well for me to supply the Gentlemen of the Hon^ble^ Assembly of this State with Subscription papers (your Advertisements) at 7 Dol? . . . Wou'd it not be well henceforth to try 7 Dol. with Nonsubscribers? You talk of my rapacious maw! The cowpox to your Modesty. But that I know Dame Nature does nothing by Journeymen I w^d^ swear that when you were far enough on the stocks for a craw, for a gizzard, some hand exotic in place of a Christian stomach snatch^d^ up the maw of a Sea brine shark or of a Broker Jew and fix^d^ it in your Conscience. I want to take every farthing of your Labour's profits from M^rs^ Carey & the Children!!!! — May God give me a place in Abraham's bosom long before I ever come to capacity of such a thought. By the Lord God I had rather never have existed than exist to sin & sink to a degree so depraved and Damnable. When a beardless boy did I not liberate my slaves,[1] give up my [*all?*] even when just putting off from the shore, & ready to try Life's uncertain Ocean, did I not with unchang^d^ countenance bid far off all my captive squadron, and myself alone, with nought but innocence on board launch out on the untried flood? And shall I now with Heaven's hopes bright blooming before me, make shipwreck of my Benevolence? . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 42.

TRENTON. Dec. 28. 1801.

D^r^ & HON^d^ SIR. To me, whose gall bladder, thank God, has long ago been extirpated, and who now, thro' Optics unsuffus^d^ with bile, can view even the most irritable of my friends with all the meekness of Benevolence, how painful to see as in your case, M^r^. Carey the Prudence of Ulysses so often dash^d^ & deform^d^ by the intemperance of Achilles!! Pigs, they say, by sleeping together contract a fondness for each other. Is it wonderful then that I, of nature more noble and more generous instincts than a Pig; that I, after so long selling your books, so long eat-

[1] See *Appendix IX.*

ing of your bread & drinking of your water, shou'd have contracted an Affection for you Yes M^r^ Carey, I can shame the Devil and say that I have often experienc^d^ for you those feelings which so refresh our spirits when the image of a beloved brother rises on our thoughts; how melancholy then the discovery that you shou'd still hearken to that passion which in some disastrous day, may render your Wife a Widow and your Children Orphans. Believe me, M^r^ Carey, it w^d^ afford me great pleasure to be assured that you write in the style of your last to Nobody but myself; *even tho'* I were assured at the same time that you write so to me, because you know me to be a poor man in your debt. . . . [*I start?*] . . . thence to return to meet as many as w^d^ load a waggon for the great trip to New Ark, Springfield. I long to be there for I suppose the New York Bibles at 4 Dollars will soon be filling the country with their eclat.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

Brunswic. Dec. 30, 1801.

Sir. . . . I have seen your Mercury, your billet doux, directed to me at Princeton.

That a Gentleman of your Superior sense shou'd write in such a style to a man by whose willing labours you are *clearing* upwards of One thousand Dollars pr An — and by a Book too which of all others most kindles the train of his Enthusiasm, — and to w^h^ if accompanied only with common politeness of the Editor, he wou'd give his whole most strenuous exertion — and at this time too, when Bibles, like Quails around the Camp of Israel, are about to become so thick as to stink in the Nostrils of Jews and Gentiles, is *to me* a Wonder. that well deserves to be call'd the 8th wonder of the World.

You talk of — "a Destiny that hangs over our intercourse." There is not a word of that in the Good Old Book w^h^ you have just printed. No, M^r^ Carey, we are ourselves the Makers of our own Destinies. If after whispering in closets & proclaim^g^ on house tops, a wish to oblivionize Goldsmith, you still continue to conjure him up & to haunt me wherever I go — if after dressing up a poor pale fac^d^ Preacher in the fire & flame colour^d^ robes of a Devil, you let loose your whole pack of angry passions to worry and tear him — if, in return for a little *inoffensive fun*, you

kindle into Rage and load him with abuse — if, not content with insult, you afflict him with injury, telling him in one letter that he may sell at *this* price, and in the next at *that* — *now* allowing him to cart his books about to second hand Purchasers, who ought (in common generosity) to have been left to him; and then stopping him short in all his frost & numb^{d} limbs — and interdicting even these beggarly gains — if, you treat him, because your Debtor, as a Slave, and because poor, unfeeling — and if, after charging him with crimes w^{h} he never committed, and with motives which his soul abhors, you upbraid him with impoverishing when he is enriching you, and at last, in the midst of a favourite work suggested *by him* & from w^{h} he hop^{d} to make something to feed his family & to pay his debts, you tell him roundly that you are, "*quite ready to take an eternal farewell*," — I say, will you after all this talk of *Destiny!!!*

Mr. Tenbrook [1] paid me to day for seven Copies, for those *left* with him you have his receipt, he promises to pay by next week. I am willing, M^{r} Carey to be your friend, but will never be your Slave. Tomorrow I set out for Bordentown for my great load. On Saturday you shall have my answer to your Valedictory Proposition — My terms shall be, I think, quite reasonable, and if you accede to them, you shall no longer have your Repose disturb^{d} by

M. L. Weems

I shall be here on Tuesday. You tell me that I shall have as many Bibles as I have Subscribers. I must certainly have 150 or 200 more, for I have not yet gone beyond Brunswic, and many I know have subscribed on Papers left by me when I pass^{d} thro this Country *reconoitring*. Send on now that the River is open. I want to take a wagon for the roads are wretched. If I had my whole parcel in a wagon, I sh^{d} soon be done. Let not the prospect of parting cause on your side a relaxation of exertion. I've never wrong^{d} you even of a damag^{d} picture, or a few sheets of chaffy paper. I shall never want work nor wages. You shall get monies on Saturday.

[1] William Tenbrook, postmaster, New Brunswick, N. J., Apr. 1, 1810, (first return) 1810. See *P.O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 412–413, P.O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.

L. & F. Vol. 42.

BRUNSWICK, Dec. 31. 1801

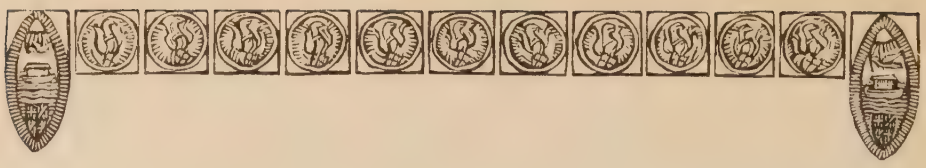
SIR. . . . I have lost time in waiting for another arrival at Trenton, that I might take a wagon. My Subscribers at New Ark are impatient for their books. My sole reason for leav^{g} books with Tenbrook & Blauvelt was, that they might be in the way of selling while I was travelling back for more. To have Subscription papers trundled in the very path which I had beaten for myself seems clearly repugnant to all laws of Copartnership, however, without a sigh I give them up, nor shall grieve tho you shou'd desire those gentlemen to send the monies (for the Receipts) to yourself. More than every cent of the money p^{d} by Tenbrook (Blauvelt has p^{d} nothing) I have already sent you.

By the latter end of next week you shall have every dollar for the 111 Bibles sent to Bordenton & indeed for many more if they cou'd be forwarded in time to take along with me on Monday in a wagon.

During six luckless years of toil in your service I have never given you even the Shadow of ground whereon to build suspicion that I am capable of doing you wrong. I shall hardly now that our race is run in sight of the Goal, throw away that Innocence which (before God) is nearly all that is left to

M. L. WEEMS

NB. I had like to have forgotten to tell you that I mention'd the last paragraph merely as an Antidote against all languor in sending on Books while the River is open.



M. de Voltaire, unsupported by either fact or probability, has generously bestowed the Canary Islands on the Roman Empire. — EDWARD GIBBON.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

TRENTON. Jany 4, 1801 [*1802.*]

MATHEW CAREY, ESQ^r. . . . Waiting for books to make a wagon load for the Northern parts of this State, I have been for 4 days past within 16 miles of this place plying back and forwards among Baptist & Presbyterian Meeting houses & Mason's lodges. It is a Golden coast all throughout the State, if I had but a flotilla to make a descent — but I can do nothing for want of books — the roads are so deep and heavy that my little horse & sulky can do nothing.

I send you today — 35 Dol^s.

If I had but the Bibles, I cou'd (God assisting) in 8 weeks turn 500 of them into Good bank notes for you. Yours of 31^st ult^o. I recd last night. I shall answer it to your surprise. But I am content to go on as aforetime, and leave to yourself and to your own Moral Sense, the whole past & present chapters of Delays Vexations and Damnations.

When shall I expect a wagon? I shall remit heavily this week — towards the last of it.

[FROM CAREY]

L. & F.

PHIL. Jan. 5, 1802.

. . . Your letters blow hot & cold so frequently, & there is so much dissatisfaction in dealing with you, that my arms are totally unnerved. I know not what steps to take.

L. & F. Vol 44.

TRENTON. Jan^y. 5. 1802.

SIR Last night sent you — 35 Dol. Now send — (much against expectations) — 10 D^o.

Yesterday set out in all the rain for Bordenton — but was driven back. Today went down and found another large box and 2 smaller —

contain^{g} 61 Bibles — miserably pack^{d} — too loose — interstitial wads if any sh^{d}. be cram^{d} between book & board, not between book & book then there would be sea room for nails badly steer^{d}. for want of such room, two of the Bibles are much damaged. Wish you cou'd have sent them to Trenton, it w^{d} have sav^{d} two dollars & an half for waggon; but I suppose you cou^{d} do no other for lack of boats.

I set out tomorrow morning — God bless me! — Who knows but I may yet be the wandering Bell or Lackington [1] of America? Wou^{d} it not be well to send 100 to New York? If properly supplied, I may leave (in 10 weeks) no room in Jersey for the New York Bibles. And if things be well ordered *in futuro* I may do great things for you with your next edition.

The people are tearing me in pieces for my Republican Oration [2] & for the Life of Washington.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

BRUNSWIC, January 7th. 1802.

SIR. This week I have sent you from Trenton —

	Dol.
35 — 10 —	45
Now from place of date	55

I am here waiting for my wagon which I left yesterday, at 12 O Clock, Just started from Trenton. The roads are bad indeed, but I trust I shall not wait long. You tell me of "hot & cold." I'm in the dark and 'tis midnight when you speak of "arms unnerved." However if 'tis to dollars that you allude, dollars you shall have soon as I can get along side of my Subscribers. Were it not better to send to Trenton than to Bordenton? At Bordenton they cost both *time* & money. At Trenton they are cheaper by *a day*, which to one of my temper is a good deal.

This Post Master business is a bad affair.[3]

[1] [*Memoirs of*] *James Lackington, . . . a Journeyman Shoemaker . . . now lives in a splendid stile, in London. . . .* Newburgh: Printed by D. Denniston, for J. Fellows, New-York. 1796. LC.

[2] *The True Patriot* was probably printed almost immediately after this. See p. 208, footnote.

[3] Thefts from the mails were often complained of. Usually they were only pilferings of newspapers, but sometimes they were more serious. See note to letter of Jan. 7, 1822.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
Jan^{y}. 8. Elizabeth Town. 1802.

Sir. . . . If you did but Justice to *my solicitude* on the score of your Bibles, you w^{d} remit all solicitude of your own.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
Elizabeth — Jan^{y}. 9. 1802.

Sir,

	Dol.
Yesterday I sent you	40
Today I send you	60

I have more but lack notes.

When I came here my spirits were somewhat depress^{d} but thank God, my usual success has crown^{d}. my usual pains.

I want to come to Philadelphia. Durell is driving on with his Bible — Kollock [1] here is printing the New testament. They have industry but, yet they dont work the matter right, I allude to their mode of getting Patrons.

This week have sent you 200 Dol.
I wish you cou'd get some of these Post Masters to send your Monies, it w^{d} be a system of cheapness.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
Elizabeth. Jan^{y}. 11, 1802.

Sir — Saturday I sent you — as stated — 60 Dol^{s}.
But I suspect I've made some mistake — however as the wafer was dry, I w^{d} not break open the letter, taking for *granted* that you w^{d} count whether it contain^{d} 55 or 60.

Today — Monday — I send you 70 Dol^{s}.
With God's blessing, I hope to make good remittances this week.

At any rate, take for your comfort, that what any small man can do, I coeteris paribus, will *try to do*.

[1] Shepard Kollock (1751–1839), of Elizabeth-Town, New Jersey, well-known publisher of books and newspapers, issued an edition of the *Life of Washington* for Weems probably in 1802 (*Bibliography, title 6*).

I promis^{d} M^{r} John Coghlan [1] 20 Dol^{s} you owe me, ballance of loan, 15 dol^{s} I p^{d} for you to Blauvelt for 3 Reams of paper for some book he is printing for you, 7½ Dol^{s}. If you will be so good as to let your boy go to M^{r}. Coghlan that he may call on you for those 20 Dol^{s}.

You will much oblige

M. L. Weems.

Coghlan I fear thinks hard that I have not p^{d} him earlier. Perhaps my little ragged fortune in his hands may suffer.

A Notice that you have p^{d} this will make my Bible burdens feel considerably lighter.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

Elizabeth — still! Jan^{y}. 12. 1802.

Sir.

Yesterday I sent you from this place..... 70 Dol^{s}.
Today I send you — d° d°..... 75 d°.
Thus, blessed be God, I've sent you from Elizabeth, on supposition of mistake of 55 for 60 .. 240 D°.

The farther I extend my exertions the more and clearer evidences do I collect that a man of Activity and Talents to exhibit this work before the optics of the nation might *clear* for you (or for any other Gentlemen who cou'd promptly furnish it) at the rate of 1,500 or 2,000 Dollars p^{r} Annum.

Mr. Kollock of this place offers to print my Oration for 12½ Dol pr sheet for the first 1000 and five Dol^{s} for 2^{d} 1000. I've reason to believe I cou'd vend 15,00 in this State.

How comes on the Nid D'Amitié? I mean the engraving you were so good as to let me place in the hands of Tanner for the 2^{d} N°. of Hymen's Recruitg Serjeant? [2]

[1] 'Coghlan John, bookbinder, 137 N Sixth' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1802, see *Addenda*.

[2] (*N°. 2!!!*) *Hymen's Recruiting-Serjeant: or, the Maid's and Bachelor's Friend. Containing a very seasonable and Savoury Dissertation, on Love, Courtship, and Matrimony. With a fine Flourish on true Beauty; Admirably calculated to disclose those two most delectable and desirable Secrets; First, How the Homely may become Handsome, and the Handsome, Angelic: and, secondly, How the Single may become Married, and the Married, Happy! Exemplified in the History of Miss Delia D——, one of the brightest and loveliest of all the bright and lovely Daughters of Columbia. "Framed to give joy, the lovely Sex are seen, Beauteous their form,*

Has Mr. Tanner sent up the fine likenesses of Gen[l] Bloomfield?[1] If he have, be so good as to take good care of them.

If you be not too far advanc[d] in arrangements for the 2[d] Edition,[2] I think you had better make a pause and ask yourself, whether [*it*] were not more prudent, to keep your Bible at six dollars. You already have as many plates as are necessary for *all intents & purposes of Sale.* In place of the Apocrypha, w[h] few value at a fig, you can give a short Concordance, — and taking your time, and while I am sending you in from 30 to 60, or 70 Dol[s] pr day while I have books, you can bring forward the second crop by the time this first shall have fail[d] and so proceed [*as?*] the Bible Printer of the United States, and exclusive of your own sales, clear from 15,00 to 2,000 Dol[s] pr An. by the Labours of

M. L. Weems

N.B. You cou'd by doing things leisurely, make a Dol. on all I sh[d] sell at 6 Dol. & 3 by all you retail[d] at 7. — I suppose, you see, that you cou'd certainly print 4,000 cop. at 4 Dol[s].

L. & F. Vol. 44.

Jany. 13, New Ark, 1802.

Sir. Having encounter[d] delays and Disasters in coming hither (on foot) from Elizabeth, I cou'd collect no more for *this mail*

I sent you yesterday ..... 75.
I now send you ..... 30.

and heavenly is their mien. To noblest ends the glorious passion sways, By love and honor bound, the youth obeys; 'Till by his virtues won, the grateful Fair, Blushing, consents to ease her lover's care. Seals all his hopes, and in the Bridal Kiss, Gives him a title to untainted Bliss!!!!" With some elegant Songs. By M. L. Weems, . . . Price. Three-eighths of a Dollar. Philadelphia: Printed by R. Cochran, for the Author. 1802. (*Bibliography, title 171.*) The frontispiece, entitled the 'Nest of Love,' was engraved by Benjamin Tanner. For an account of Tanner see *American Engravers upon Copper and Steel,* by David McNeely Stauffer, 1907, Vol. I, Part I, pp. 263–264; also *History of the Rise and Progress of the Arts of Design in America,* by William Dunlap, 1834, Vol. II, p. 47.

[1] 'Mr. Weems to B. Tanner To printing 1000 Bloomfield, $6.67' *Mathew Carey Account Books,* Vol. 16, 6689, AAS. No sign of this portrait ever found in the copies of the *True Patriot* examined.

[2] *The Holy Bible: containing the old and new testaments: together with the apocrypha: . . . six maps, and twenty-four historical engravings* Philadelphia: . . . Mathew Carey . . . October 27th, 1802. 4to. NYPL.

Every day's experience proves the policy of the "festina lente" & that he who gains *little*, gains *much*.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
Jan^{y}. 14. N. Ark. 1802.

Sir. . . . Wou'd God you cou'd prevail on the Binders to give me unpatch^{d} books. Tis vexatious to walk half a mile to a Subscriber and to be sent back, for one's pains, with full arms and an empty purse. My fatigues are great, owing to the disgregated state of the Buildings in the New Jersey Villages.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
New Ark. Jan^{y}. 15. 1802.

Sir.

Yesterday I sent you ..... 150 Dol^{s}
Today I send you 100

Thus thro the great goodness of God preserving me in the high way of Temperance, Industry and Prudence, I have come within Joyful Ken of the last 100 Dol^{s}. that square the yards between my debits and your Credits of *390* Bibles!!! These 1850 Dols I cou^{d} easily by virtue of the same ceaseless exertions, have remitted you in three weeks had things been in that fortunate site [*sic*] that was to have been desired. The patc[*hes*] on the word of God, like many edg^{d} swords cut and wound me in every direction. I do not wish you to experience the insolence of Subscribers. They seek occasion to reject and a patch never so small will serve their turn. And to think of patching for a dollar and a fipenny bit, is monstrous. Pennington says he w^{d} bind in another guess [*sic*] style for a dollar a volume. Some of those sent me look for all the world like sixpenny loaves of Baker's bread and feel to the full as light and spungy. I know 'tis the bread of life but it had no need to be cook^{d} so coarsely. However, there is one of your Binders who looks as if he had thoughts of going to heaven. I mean the Binder in the Orange edging. That fellow, I trust will find mercy for he's honest. Everybody jumps at his books and all seem to prefer the Orange edging. Please to have all done in that style. They are driving away at Elizabeth and New York for *3 Bibles!!!* However if You had a neat Quart^{o} at 6 Dol. which

you cou[d] print at 3.75 and put to me at 5 — and retail at 7, I sh[d] not fear to make great sales to the Northward. Such a bible in the hands of one who cou[d] at once expatiate, preach, and press among the People w[d] (Deo adjuvant) cut its way maugre the odds (one dollar) between that and the 5 dol[s] New York Bible. But, three dol[s].! My God! 'tis a fearful odds!

By printing 4000 Bibles as above you cou[d] get them (now you have the plates and paper is getting down) at 3 Dol. 75 cents to me at 5, retail, 7 you cou[d] do great things if you w[d] but persevere.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

New Ark Jany. 16, 1802.

Sir. . . . Hope you'll have a good stock of Bibles ready for me at Trenton. I set out thither by the time you get this.

I've sent you about 500 Dol. this Week.

Orange edg[d] Bibles, well press[d] and no patches . . .

Hope to see Trenton Wednesday night.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

Jany. 20, 1802. Elizabeth.

Sir. My last week's fatigue in that scatter'd village of New Ark, where I had to lug my books sometimes a full half mile, and then return for more, together with the appendix of preaching two long discourses for Bishop Ogden [1] on Sunday have caus[d] me to lie by and spend *yesterday* in getting my papers ready for the Press. However this morning I shall mount my sulky and come on down the upper road of Springfield Scotch plains &c I send you now but — 20 Dol[s]. I have made good sales at Elizabeth & New Ark, at the latter about 65 Bibles, some *still due* at the former 45. Woodruff [2] got his at nearly what they cost me. I

[1] Of New Jersey.

[2] Abner Woodruff, New Jersey, a subscriber to Carey's edition of Guthrie's *Geography*, 1794–1795, LC. — 'Notice. The partner-ship of Ballard and Woodruff will dissolve on the first day of April next, by mutual consent. . . . Jeremiah Ballard, William Woodruff. Eliz. Town, March 21, 1797.' *New Jersey Journal*, Mar. 22, 1797, HU. — 'An ordinance to guard against fire. . . . Isaac Woodruff, Dep. Mayor . . .' *Ibid.*, Feb. 15, 1797, HU. — Possibly Weems referred to one of the above.

have not above 14 with me, which I hope to get clear of today and tomorrow. And about the same number due, of the former cargoes. So that I may conclude I have been paid for about 360 out of 390 of your 391 of *mine*. I have bespoken me a complete carriage for my business this summer; cost about 90 Dol^{s}. As to the Bible, Mr. Carey, if you wish to make this, as it *may be made* a Source of *profit for life*, you must make the whole Republic your Purchasers. But you can hardly count on Plebian Pence, while you have put your Book at Patrician Price; If by putting 30 or 40 plates to your Bible you cou'd awaken as many pious feelings, something might be said. But I believe you will agree with me that your Engravers have not yet come up to the mark of Sentimentalism. And, afore God, I'd as lieve look to catch devotion from speering at fancy form^{d} figures on a sooty chimney back, as on the generality of Bible engravings done in our country.

Wou'd God; for I am in great haste, you'd send on a good cargo, 40, 50, or 60 Bibles to Trenton instantly.

I hope to be at Trenton Thursday or Friday night. If we cou^{d} have an interview about this Heavy Work you are about to engage in it might be of service. The New York Quto comes out in 7 or 8 weeks, so I was told last night.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*
Jan. 21, 1802.

. . . Sending to Trenton 24 Bibles, sheep. 1.000; 10 D^{o} calf. 600; 1 D^{o} D^{o} 67, 2 dozen School Bibles 16. $203.79.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
Feb^{y}. 1, 1802. Trenton.

Sir. . . . The Ballance of the Bibles (65) will I trust be with you on Saturday morning. They are in the hands of two very Substantial Preachers, Baptist & Presbyterian. I am born to misfortunes as the Sparks fly upwards. Came here in the rain, a pouring rain, for more Bibles but behold None! None! None! A whole week and not a Bible! Not a single Bible!

L. & F. Vol. 44.
TRENTON Feb. 10. 1802.

SIR. I have sold today 26 dol[s] worth of Republicans [1]
Thank God say I — I send you..... 20 Dol[s]
By my entries it appears I have paid you 2293
Total 2313 Dol[s]

Again I say Thank God —

Gen[l]. Bloomfield gives me thanks — with me he agrees that you must give your Bible everything, (pertinent thereto) that's curious, usurious and wonderful. *Carey's Bible!* Carey's Bible!! must be the cry; or all our fat's in the fire. Eight Dollars! Oh! tis a dreadful Bugbear — Peace is come — Pork fallen — Wheat low and a Dollar goes for 7/6!!! — All this is meant, that you sh[d] keep your two eyes on the Bible — Governor Bloomfield will send you several things apropos — Tomorrow I set off for Lancaster.

Best wishes to M[rs]. Carey. A strong Decoction of Whorehound, with a little milk & honey, taken warm on going to bed, has done infinite good.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
ELIZABETH TOWN. Feb. 16. 1802

SIR. I cou'd not bear to think of so many Bibles lying at Trenton, doing no work, So I started with one box 44 in Number. I now send you the counterpoise of nearly one half of them, viz. — 100 Dol[s]. Rev[d] Vanhorne [2] will keep nearly the whole of the rest for his Morristown Subscribers his poverty will compel me to wait till I return for the payment.

Bibles patch[d] worse than ever!!! If you mean to put me against the

[1] Probably referring to his *True Patriot*, judging by his reference later in this letter to General Bloomfield, to whom that pamphlet was dedicated.

[2] Perhaps one of the two following: William Vanhorne, Clerk of the New-York Association [*of Baptist Churches*] in convention in New York in 1797, in *Surprising Accounts of the Revival of Religion, in the United States of America*, by William W. Woodward, Philadelphia, 1802, LC.; or Peter P. Vanhorn who with Benjamin Miller was sent by the Philadelphia Association to tour the South and "set things in order" among the Baptists — see *A History of the Baptists in the Southern States East of the Mississippi*, B. F. Riley, D.D., Philadelphia, 1898, p. 19, LC.

New Yorkers and on their own Dunghill too, I must have the Neat Orange Binder. Give me *him*, and, Deo Volente I'll do well.

I am on my way back.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
TRENTON. Feb. 19 1802.

Dr. SIR. . . . Thank God the True Patriot goes off manfully — Feds or no Feds they all seem to approve it. Tomorrow I set off for Newtown to be ready to utter the Masonic Oration — God grant I may sell some Bibles &c. &c. From Newtown I propose to dash strait away for Lancaster

volti

If not for mine, can't you at least for your own sake, have some Bibles bound handsomely? well beat firm, orange edgd & unpatchd? For every Bible I sell, you receive more than I do, then "*be merciful*" I fret and fume more about those cursed patches than I ought, or than I ought to be made.

Of the 44 I carried with me there are left with Revd Vanhorn 16!!! I'll get the money soon.

You see I had just as lieve go to old Nick as carry patchd & Iron grey bibles to N. York.

N.B. This money is [*a*] good deal more than the bibles of this excursion amount to — The Patriot begins to tell —

L. & F. Vol. 44.
NEW HOPE. Feb. last day Thank God! [*1802.*]

SIR, This is simply to inform that I am alive and alive like to be — tho' for the last 7 days I seem to have liv'd but little to the best uses of this world. Snows and hails, and snowstorms dire with banks of drifted Snow have turn'd all my fond hopes of the last week into abortion and a blank. And to increase my uneasiness I have had no opportunity to write or to send by mail what little money I have pickd up for you. God willing, I shall be long side of you with my little cargo on Friday. Govr

Bloomfield advises me to be at Woodbury (8 miles below Philad[a], *Jersey side*) on Thursday 4th March. It seems there's to be a great meeting of Republicans. I have got No. 2 of Hymen &c ready for the press. I hope M[r]. Tanner has got the engraving in readiness. I purpose to go from Philad[a] strait to Lancaster. W[d] it not be well to have some 20 or 30 Bibles bound in *calf?* Perhaps the Assembly w[d] give us large monies for them. We sh[d] sell, *no doubt*, I have however removed one thought-ach. That pile of bibles at Trenton is no more. I have sent you 210 Dol. = to 42 of them the rest are in good selling hands, and for some I shall bring you the money. Mr. Kollock has the Life of Washington nearly ready for me, in 8°. which likeness of Washington will best frontispiece it?

Best wishes to M[rs]. Carey I hope her cough is better.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

WILMINGTON. March 27, 1802.

D[r] SIR . . . Tomorrow (God willing) I set out to see Mr. Meehan — Success uncertain — But I hope for the best. I'm sure we've reason to hope for he has had your property long enough.

You told me you w[d] charge yourself with the plate of Washington — the larger w[d] be the more profitable to you because the more productive to

M. L. W.

Is it not time to have the Bible Proposals ready for me by Tuesday morning? I shall have good opportunity to dispose of many in good hands. For Heaven's sake, Mr. Carey, follow my advice for once —

As *one* of your many Handsome & Valuable Supplementles, give, (say) for the 15 *A Concise and Masterly Display of the Evidences Of Christianity;* [1] tending to confirm the Honest Mind in a Rational Belief of that Divine Doctrine which prepares for *Heaven* only by making us *good* on earth. Poor Sam[l] Adams who is at my elbow and most troublesomely drunk, will not allow me to give this idea so good a dress as it deserves. But with you it is in proper hands. For God's sake don't

[1] A quotation, with slight changes, from pp. 134–150 of J. Fletcher's *Appeal to Matter of Fact & Common Sense*, used as one of the supplements to many editions of Carey's Bible, see *Bibliography, title 248.*

omit this Article. Put Downman's [*sic*] Concordance [1] — and you may insert not only this Article (which I assure you will do more good than all the rest) but many others which you may wish to insert.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

TRENTON. April 2d. 1802.

I had as lieve be in purgatory as in Philad[a] for amongst all your miserable money hunting Street Beaters I can't see the face of a dollar! But the hour that sees me in the Country, sees me, *thank God for it*, in the receipt of Bank Notes.

Inclos[d] I send you 50 Dol — 50 do.

I think everything considered you had better push off the Bibles to *Trenton*. 'Twill cost me *roundly* to wagon them over to N. York but I can't help it.

I sold 30 Hymens today — for Cash & six Mentors 5/ — wholesale. I must have money. I've felt the pulse for your New Atlass — One throb only — but that was *favourable*. Mr. Coxe is a Subscriber. You were pleas[d] to ask my opinion of your Engravers & their handy works. If I be a Critic, then the Lord have mercy on Weston.[2] His tempest out calibans Caliban. " 'Tis darkness visible —" " 'Tis confusion worse confounded" His polacre looks for all like some Monster just started out of a Tar Kiln — His Mariners are Moors, and his Mountains perfectly amphibious. I w[d] as soon take them for the hills of Connaught or the dark ridges of Kilkenny as for the waves of the sea of Gallilee. 'Tis a feast to converse with good pictures — nothing but the *fame* of them can possibly bear us safely and speedily thro' this *Heavy Work*. Please take out the waste paper and put one hundred more of Hymen into the two boxes. Good Love to M[rs]. C. & to the family. Scold M[rs]. Sharpless [3] — Several

[1] *A concordance or table to the Bible of the last translation: whereby one of meane capacitie may easily find out . . . the most usefull places contained in holy Scripture.* Carefully perused and enlarged by J. Downame. Allowed by His Majesties speciall priviledge to be printed, and bound with the Bible in all volumes. London: printed by the Assignees of C. Cotton, 1639. NYPL.

[2] 'Henry W. Weston was an engraver of small merit working in Philadelphia about 1803–06.' *A History of the Rise and Progress of The Arts of Design in the United States*, William Dunlap, Boston, 1918, Vol. III, p. 341, LC.

[3] James Sharples, whose name was often spelled Sharpless, 1761–1811, lived in and about New York, and was very peripatetic, so that his wife might possibly be the lady referred to. See

Copies lack their plates. Dispatch the boxes instantly to Chambers, Trenton.

Health and Happiness.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

TRENTON. April 7th. 1802.

SIR . . . After an excursion of 3 or 4 days, into the country, I am just returnd to meet the Books from Philadelphia, but no Books are arrivd! And yet time is flying, My Wife grieving, my Parishioners clamoring &c!!! Genl. Bloomfield, who is now settled in this place, begs you wd be so obliging as to step into Mr. Duane's Office [1] & desire that his Papers be directed to him at *Trenton*. He begs that you wd keep the Bible, Kempton [2] &c untill you shall have completely answered all your ends in borrowing them. I told the Govr of the New Atlass. He wishes to have one. About the New Bible, you can't be too particular on the score of the Paper & the Engravings. No. 2 of Hymen has sold to admiration. The *Friends* prodigiously fond of it. I wrote to you for the boxes, on friday and saturday last; fair winds since and yet no boxes!!! Well, wd God all my debts were paid and I at the head of a Colony of Poor Negroes founding a Republic beyond the Missisippi. Wou'd it not be well for Mrs. Sharpless to hold Hymen in her good keeping? For if brought to 118 they'll strait down into the Cellar; and there's such an eternal Volcanic eruption in the Cellar; with such refluent tides of books & paper matter overwhelming, overlaying everything, that I shd never find a half of my pamphlets.

Love to Mrs. Carey & family.

Adieu Your's

Sketch of James Sharples in *A History of the Rise and Progress of The Arts of Design in the United States*, William Dunlap, Boston, 1918, LC. Often found in *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS.

[1] William Duane, 1760–1835, editor of *The Aurora* (Philadelphia), after Bache's death, Sept. 10, 1798; its publisher, 1800 (see also letter of Duane in *New England Historical Genealogical Register*, Vol. XXV, p. 386); 1807–1810, published by Wm. J. Duane & Co. (his son joining him); appointed Adjutant-General in 1813 and resigned the paper to James Wilson; resumed proprietorship again on his return in 1815, and continued until after 1820; employed by Andrew Brown as one of the editors of the *Philadelphia Gazette*. See *ProcAAS.*, 1922, Vol. XXXII, pp. 88, 124, LC.

[2] Probably an earlier imported edition of the following, used in working up Carey's editions of the Bible: *A New and Complete Universal History of the Holy Bible, from the Creation of the World, to the Full Establishment of Christianity*, by Rev. Edward Kempton, first American edition, Trenton, 1813, LC.

N.B. if the boxes be on the *Sea ro*[*ad to*] N. York, please send *instantly* 30 Hymens, in box, to Trenton.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

TRENTON April 9, 1802

DEAR SIR . . . If the good Old Book did not tell me of the Devil's Nature, I sh[d] know it by my own rueful experience. After all my writing to you about patch[d] Bibles after all my scolding of Cameron &c &c to have the Cards put on the *bottoms* of the Boxes!! and the 50 elegant Bibles drawn and jolted topsy turvy from Lamberton to Trenton, and the Hymens so ramm[d] & jam[d] that I'm sure the nests of Love will hardly ever again be got into ship-shape. Blessed be God, in 10 minutes I leave this place for N. York. My boxes are on their way to Brunswic. Next Thursday fortnight I hope you[1] see me in Philad[a].

Let it be an eternal Rule to [*mark?*] the boxes the moment they are pack[d].

L. & F. Vol. 44.

BRUNSWIC, April 12. 1802.

D[r]. SIR . . . As to the Bible — I am unhappy lest you ponder not sufficiently the importance of giving Plates executed to PUBLIC ADMIRATION. The Engravings are the wings of that very Costly Work. Elegantly woven and webb[d] they will bear it up.

Perhaps you'll hear from me tomorrow. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 44.

BRUNSWIC. April 13, 1802.

D[r]. SIR.

Yesterday I sent you	.....	30 Dol[s].
Today send you	.....	40
Since I left you last, have sent	.....	50
From Trenton do	.....	60
do	.....	30
from Brunswic yesterday	.....	30
do today	.....	40
In all	.....	210 Dol.

Let me *Conjure* you to keep Good Look out on the Engravers. Good Engravings are a Luxury, a feast to the Soul. Fancy dwells on them with pleasure. We shut the book with reluctance. We return to it with frequency and delight. The fame of them goes abroad and the Bible sells with Rapidity. What eight Dollars! A quarto Bible at eight Dollars!

32000 Dollars!!! INFANDUM REX & REGINA! Oh! let the paper, print [&] *Engravings* be such as to make everybody lift up the hand & eye and exclaim, Heavens! how Elegant!

Yours, with love to M^rs^. Carey

Tomorrow I go for N. York.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

BRUNSWIC still April 14, 1802

D^r^ SIR . . . Please *Instantly* to pack 400 Hymens in a box and push them off to me at N. York. Let them be closely pack^d^ in a small box and sent via Bordenton & Amboy

Health & Happiness

Thank God I have weather^d^ Cape Pray, send 3000 Dol^s^ instantly — turn — put on the Card "Dispatch" Look sharp at your Engravers.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

ELIZABETH. April 16, 1802.

D^r^ SIR I send you — 30 Dol.

Shall send more monday.

I begg^d^ you to send me, via Bordenton 400 Hymen. Two things are Needful, one is, attention to

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

ELIZABETH. Ap. 19. 1802.

D^r^. SIR . . . Things have turned out hardly against me. Those to whom I gave Subscription papers have gotten *many* more names than was expected. Rev^d^. Vanhorne of Scotch Plains (where I preach^d^ yesterday) has no fewer than 51 Subscribers!!! The *bare hint* that he cou'd *hardly*

be furnish'd at this time, rais[d] his metal. And this business of engaging the most influential Characters in our country, and then putting them off, is not agreeable either to you or me, not toothsome, I mean and surely not wholesome, for who [*will?*] ever assist us again? And the Lord preserve us from the lash of TONGUES!!! Well, This moment I set off up to Morristown with all my Bibles, the N. York cargo except[*ed*]. I beg you not to dream of letting me have fewer Bibles than 300 for Virginia. Isn't it Barbarity & Worse to keep me here all the Winter from my wife & children & such a Wife & Children too, selling upwards of 3,000 Dol worth of books for you, and then send me off with a heavy heart to meet the importunities & insults of *long* LONG expecting Subscribers? We may do a Great Deal in this business if an eye of Justice be cast to

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
ELIZABETH April 22. 1802.

D[r] SIR

Again I send you, thank God	85 Dol
Monday I sent you	50
	135

This hour I set out for New York.

I shall think you a Barbarian if you refuse me 300 for Virginia. I've receiv[d] abuse enough for disappointing the People in *N. Jersey!* let not my unoffending name be *sounded* in Curses from one end of the Continent to the Other.

L. & F. Vol. 44.
N. YORK. April 26. 1802.

D[r] SIR

Thursday I sent you from Elizabethtown .	Dol[s] 85
I now send you.....	55
	140

My Subscribers are, almost every man of 'em, *removed;* Some by Death, to the Grave, some by pride to a Prison &c. &c. And as to the Indifferent Multitude, they are so fond of finery that they turn up their noses at our paper & engravings. To some of your workmen, your generosity is

ill judg[d]. & pernicious In Dublin Liberal Wages ever beget Eleg[*ant*] Work. You come to America under that impression, so deeply [*fix'd?*] as to create a confirm[d] Credulity. And Credulity you know is but a bad Critic. Hence the Paper Makers from Brandywine to Connestogoe, give you 3 Dollar paper for four; And all the Engravers between Alpha & Omega give you Gipies [*sic*] Bantlings for Angels. Well, the truth of the pudding is in the eating; And in the *yellow ink*, slazy paper & coarse engravings of Bible N° 1,[1] I had mortification enough. Had YOU been the Paper Maker, the Engraver and the Binder my lips sh[d] have been seal[d], but I want to startle you from a Credulity, which however it may affect the Giant M. Carey, will certainly ruin the Dwarf M. L. Weems. If I cannot vend them at 7, shall I rather than send them on to Virginia, vend at Six Dollars? My interest, at least untill I shall have paid you all, is yours. If therefore I can exchange, for Good School Books, what of Thomas's vile edition of the [*Prayer books?*][2] that are coming to me, w[d] it not be adviseable?

L. & F. Vol. 44.

NEW YORK. April 28. 1802.

D[r] SIR . . . I now send you ..... 50 Dol

I have been soliciting Purchasers of the Bible, the whole day long, and have not been able to find *one!!!* The town is delug[d] with Bibles & Deism. 'Tis astonishing! I meet with smiles and compliments in profusion, but no money — I mean for the Bible. As to Hymen, thank God, that sells. Today I broach[d] the box you sent. yesterday, a storekeeper ask[d] me to baptise his little Son. After the Office, he gave me *Seven Dollars*. Duykink[3] wants to buy permission to print my life of Washington. 'Twere imprudent to grant it. I may do good things with that book by & by. What think you of hot-pressing 500 of your next Bible? I'm sure I cou[d] sell many. The *wealthy* all object to this as utterly too coarse. Different tastes must be consulted. One of my Subscribers took his book frowningly, paid grumblingly, then cavalierly ask[d] "now Sir what will you give *me* for it?" — I don't know — "will

[1] Probably the edition of Oct. 20, 1801, see *Bibliography, title 248*.

[2] Probably Thomas & Andrews' edition of 1800, 12°, $4.50, LC.

[3] Evert and James Duyckinck, the well-known publishers of New York.

you give me 5 dollars?" Faith, when God is the Object, is a Virtue and a Great Blessing. But that can't be said of Faith which leans on Man, especially on a Selfish Paper Maker, Ink Maker &c. &c. However your faith in them is no Charity to me. I'll bring you one of *Pennington's Bibles* to shew to our high stomach[d] Philad[a] Binders. I told you, that, yet awhile at least, my interest is yours; would it not be well to have your Prayer books (that are destin[d] for me) bound, ready for my Virginia Sales? You know, my Mentors (which you take in exchange) are ready for you. The sooner I sell your Prayer books the sooner shall our a/c be settl[d]. Pennington sells at Six and has, I'm told, gone so far as to *advertise* the Superiority of his to mine in the grand article of *binding*!!!!!!!

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 44.

New York. April 29. 1802.

Dear Sir

Monday sent	55
Day before yesterday I sent you	50
Today I send you	50
Dol[s]	155

After travelling from house to house for nearly two days without selling a Single Bible, I at length vended six to M[r] Isaac Collins @ 5.75. I have also, since saturday last, dispos[d] of about 13 more, and all, save one, @ 6. Your unwillingness to send them to Virginia, from the apprehension that you sh[d] not soon receive the money, has inclin[d] me to suppose that you w[d] be better pleas[d] with prompt remittances, tho' somewhat smaller profits.

Yours respectfully,

Love to Mrs. Carey & family.

L. & F. Vol. 44.

New York. May 4. 1802.

D[r] Sir . . . I set off Tomorrow morning, with ballance of my Bibles, for Philadelphia. God give me a good gleaning on the fields of

N. Jersey. I have sent you from this place in about 8 days 200 Dol^{s}. of the Bibles sold here. I have got 7 Dol. *cash* but for one!!! The rest I have vended at Six. And even at that price, I sold so slowly that had it not been for Hymen, I shou'd hardly have done more than pay current expenses. The two large editions @ 4.50–5 and 10 Dol. just printed, have operated against us. Against us *here*, in *this City*. In the *Country* the case has [*all*] along been and I trust will continue to be different, *widely different*. I shall bring good monies with me, please God I live to see you. But I have been much afflicted with a cold &c &c. &c.

Love to Mrs. Carey and family.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

WILMINGTON. May 24. 1802.

SIR: Saturday, in the rain I visited from door to door, as usual, the good people of this town, to whom I sold a parcel of Hymen N° 2, & one Family Bible @ 6 Dol^{s}. Rev^{d} Price[1] had sold me so many *here* at Six that I never thought to ask more. NB. I call^{d} at about 50 houses, and sold 18 Hymens. I send you — 10 Dol^{s}. For a *poor* and *unmanaging* Man, with a helpless Wife & five Children,[2] with no *cure* (voluntarily renounc^{d} on account of your Bible) I have sign^{d}, seal^{d} & deliver^{d} to [*you the?*] payment of a large sum. I hope I need not tell how incumbent 'tis now on you to give me every aid — I mean of Bibles sent instantly to me and to my Subscribers. How perfectly cheerful sh^{d} I find myself under rain and sunshine, cold and hunger, were you to me what you ought to be?

[1] 'The following extract of a letter from the President of the United States is affixed as a recommendation, to Proposals of William Price and William Black, of Wilmington, for publishing by subscription, "The History of our blessed Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with the lives of the Holy Apostles." It would seem that these publishers, both of whom are Federalists, the first a pious Episcopal clergyman, the latter printer of a federal paper, do not believe the story of Mr. Jefferson's *Infidelity*. Extract of a letter from the President of the United States.' (Letter follows, dated Washington, October 15th, 1803, and signed 'Th. Jefferson. The Rev. William Price.') *Democrat* (Boston), May 5, 1804, BA.

[2] According to the record of births of Weems' children, furnished to Paul L. Ford before 1902 by Miss Elizabeth Chew Williams, he had at this date only four. Either it must be assumed that there was another, not given in the record, which died in babyhood, or it seems necessary to change the birth date of Nancy Ewell from 1803 to 1802. As the intervals between the elder children were in no other case longer than a trifle over two years, and sometimes much less, this seems the more probable conjecture. See *Appendix XVII*.

But how can I be cheerful when so often neglected & ill treated? You kept me *idle* one half of all the winter past, idle and on expence when 300 miles distant from a weeping Wife & little clamorous Children. And when I complained you wrote to me bitter things. You smiled on the idea of my getting a *Carriage* that w^d^ accelerate our tide of business; and you even generously volunteered the printing for me such & such little peices as w^d^ defray my travelling expences, and yet when the amount of the monies for that carriage and for those little books, was presented, you put on the frowns of Winter, you cloister^d^ & lectured me as tho I had done something wicked. And yet, setting aside the noney for those articles, you shll find that I paid you more than the amount of 720 Bibles sold for you in this *half winter!!* But, to say nothing of all that, after spending my winter in N. Jersey, at your request, now you talk of sending me 50 Bibles for 250 Subscribers who have long been clamouring against me!!! M^r^. Carey, I have been *punctual*, and greatly *successful*, while furnish^d^, with such books ONLY, as were subscrib^d^ for. Send me such and *only* such (e.g. the Bible) and if I cease to be punctual, & successful, then talk the language of *distrust*. I want 100 Bibles at least at Fredericksburg, & 100 at Alexandria for SUBSCRIBERS. To transfer my warfare, & in winter too, 300 miles from home, & then leave me in the summer nothing to do near home, were a cruelty w^h^ I hope you will never practise. To say nothing of God, or any of His Attributes, Justice, &c. &c. If you wish the Esteem & friendship of M. L. Weems, send on *instantly instantly* 100 to Fredericksburg & 100 to Alexandra. As to the *Mentor*, you well know I told you they are not full bound, — Yea, I show^d^ you a copy of one. Wallace & Coghlan have them & will bind for you. If an order be necessary I'll cheerfully give it. *Charge* the binding to me, as *an additional favor* to your

M. L. WEEMS.

[*Inserted in letter here*]

May 24, 1802.

Mr. Shepperd Kollock,

Please to deliver to M^r^. Carey or order Six hundred and twenty one of my Life of Washington, left with you & oblige,

M. L. WEEMS.

Volti.

[*Letter continued*]

I see you have over charg^{d} in the article of paper, if there be any surplus of the 621, give them to Order. I told you about No. 2 of Hymen, that M^{rs}. Sharpless has them; — you said, "*it is all well.*" I pray God you may not neglect me in this Bible, for I long to "owe you nothing but LOVE." *Send me not a book but such as I request.* All my profits 2,700! Dol on Goldsmith — & 1500 Dol Arrearages have been brought on me by *that.*

L. & F. Vol. 49.

HAVRE DE GRACE May 26. 1802.

SIR: . . . All travelling — no selling — Don't forget my Bibles — 100 to Fredericksb^{g} — 100 to Alexandria —

I gave you an order on M^{r}. Kollock, Elizabeth Town for 621 Life of Washington.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

BALTIMORE. May 27. 1802.

SIR: Yesterday from Havre, sent — 20 Dol. Today send from Balt^{o} — 20. You *promis^{d}* me, and you are generally a scrupulous Observer of promises, that I sh^{d} at any rate have 200 Bibles for Virginia — I shall want 100 for Alexandria^{a}. & 100 for Fredericksb^{g}. — if you coud send me 20 or 30 to Balt^{o} it w^{d} be very acceptable to

M. L. WEEMS.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

DUMFRIES. June 4th. 1802.

SIR: Doct^{r} John Weems, of Georgetown, promis^{d} to send you three days ago — 20 Dol.

Today I pay M^{r}. Brundige 20–30. Mr. Brundige's Bibles, at *six Dol^{s}.* will I fear do me some harm.

I take it for granted, that you keep in remembrance that you engag^{d} to send me the books under insurance, or which is the same thing, at your risk. You promis^{d} me 200 Bibles *at least* tot idem-verbis, of w^{h} I hope to render you a good account. My ink is not black enough to answer your last — nor w^{d} I, for that end, add the slightest shade, tho

I possess[d] Aleppo with all its galls. I had rather *work* than *write* — and there is a voice in my ear which yet bids me hope for better days.

I wish you w[d] keep a look out for my stray ledger — thin & half-bound.

100 to Alexandria
100 to Fredericksburg
[*blank*] to Baltimore.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES — June 10, 1802.

SIR, . . . I have not yet stirr[d] from Dumfries where I have waited for my books and Bibles — Wou'd God you w[d] dispatch —

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES 1802. June 16.

SIR: I have not yet been from Dumfries — still waiting for my Bibles. However, I now send you — 10 Dol.

Did you get from D[r]. Weems — Geo. Town — 20? If so, I have sent you in all 130. The week after the advent of the Bibles you shall (Deo volent) have good remittances — I shall then start out in good earnest with all sorts of books sacred & profane. You can send me 1 doz. 8° Bibles as a trial — If you cou'd get Woodward to take some of my prayerbooks (in your hand) and send me some of his smaller editions, it w[d] answer well.

Brundige says he has not sold a single one of the last supply of Bibles — If I had them, I could, I think soon sell my 200 which you promis[d] me. You sh[d] forever remember that I am the Man who first, with much labour, awaken[d] you to this Bible business, whereby, properly managed, you may do great things. In 8 weeks I shall be clear of all churches & at full liberty to attend to the business of the Bibles.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES June 24. 1802.

SIR: Still at Moorings in Dumfries waiting for the appearance of the Flotilla Sancta.

But — send you — 10 Dol[s].

Lose not sight of my old Ledger.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

DUMFRIES. June 29. 1802.

SIR — . . . Still in Dumfries whence I have scarce ever stir[d] save on a trip or two to Alexand[a] to Collect or rather to *try* to collect some monies due for books scatter[d] in the Unfortunate [17]96 and 97.

In consequence of harkening to your voice advising the long N. Jersey expedition, my Parishoners have anointed another Priest. But, little w[d] I regard that or any other similar disaster, cou'd I but be constantly supplied with Bibles — In a word, I have for 8 months past been almost incessantly scorch[d] with a fever of Expectation, disappointment & chagrin. Fifty times have you acknowledg[d] that I was kept idle half my time in *N. Jersey* and now for *six weeks* I have done nothing!! I, who have activity enough to be a Lieutenant to Caesar!!! If a man of the true Ambition think nothing done while he has anything to do, what must I feel who see *so much* to do; so much money to pay to M. Carey, so much good to do to my Country, so much Bread & Cloth to get for my crowding Family. And yet, if I Speak to you in the style of one that's damnd by such delay, you say, "I grumble." "What,["] say they, ["] are you doing business with Mat. Carey? ["] "Yes." "Well, you are well match[d]. Par nobile Fratrum." W[d] God I coud find you my Match. I shall count on the promise you made me of 200 Bibles for my Southern Subscribers. I shall count on it, I say, as if the promise had been made by an Angel. Tho' greatly vex[d] for these 8 months in the delays & hindrances of this Bible, yet my flame of friendship for you is not extinguish[d]. I wish not, (tho' by the living God I believe that others w[d] give me *more than* you offer on the 2[d] Edition) I wish not to quit you, at least not until you shall say that our latter end has been better than the beginning. This moment I set out to Fredericksburg to meet the Bibles. A great demand here for Bibles. A wafer in your next may do no harm. I shall want 30 Bibles at Baltimore, in 3 weeks from this date. I have had in the North 750 Bibles, if you coud make out the 1000 (half the Edition) you w[d] be no Loser.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES. July 3. 1802.

SIR: . . . Yesterday was at Fredericksb^g^ where I sold 15 Bibles and put 20 others in motion. Shall soon remit the whole amount. But for a few Sermons still due to the parishes, of last years contract, I sh^d^ send all in a trice. Deo Duce, shall soon turn your books into bank notes. The Subscribers in the Country are numerous & clamorous. Hasten on 50 more to Fredericksb^g^. 50 to Alexandria & 30 to Balt^o^. You shall have a handsome Remittance on Tuesday next. How goes on the 2^d^ Edition?

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES. July 9. 1802.

Sir: . . . The few you sent to Fredericksb^g^ are (except mine) in good hands. Wou'd God I cou'd get a stout parcel at Alexandria. Cap^t^. M^c^Clenachan [1] wants 60 for his subscribers. M^c^Clenachan is as good as the bank and w^d^ in 3 weeks [*pay?*] down on the nail for whatever he sh^d^ take. If you cou'd send me a few of your catalogues of Books I may get some orders. I'll take care they shall be of the right sort.

Don't forget my lost sheep. If not wanted send me my folio French Testament [2] with those elegant plates. But if you feel the least wish to keep it, send it not.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES July 13 1802.

SIR: . . . Tho' I have not been from home I now send you for B—— 30. Last week, I was at Alexand^a^, looking for the Bibles — No arrival! Tomorrow I set off on the same errand. I wish to get them all under way, that I may have liberty to go back to Fredericksb^g^ for the monies due in that place & its vicinity. There are 60 due to Capt. M^c^Clenachan, a wealthy and worthy man near Alexandria. I have a great many sub-

[1] 'In the case of James M'Clenachan, a Bankrupt. Whereas a commission of bankruptcy hath been awarded and issued forth against James M'Clenachan of the town of Alexandria, and he being declared a bankrupt, is hereby required to surrender himself to the commissioners . . . in the town of Alexandria, and make a full discovery and disclosure of his estate and effects . . . Alexandria, Dec. 10, 1803.' *Alexandria Expositor*, Dec. 15, 1803, HU.

[2] Never identified.

scribers at the different Court houses, towns & Country places of this & the neighbouring State. You say I complain. I hope ever to complain while losing time & making no money. Had the books met me on my arrival here from Philadelphia, the monies w^d^ have been, nearly all, in your hands at this time. You will do well to push off 50 more to Alexand^a^ & 50 to Fredericksbg & if possible 30 to Balt^o^. I think I can get sale for a great many of your books, & in the safe & prompt way of good Orders. I shall expect you to give me a good Commission. Send on a parcel of your *Catalogues* for distribution into proper hands. I have taken a large house here in town with a Capital Room on the street for display of books. The People say I have a monstrous assortment.

I have orders for —

Best Catholic Prayer books	2
Moore's travels with Duke of Hamilton [1]	1
Percival's Dissertations [2]	1
Ossian — & Pursuits of Literature [3] 2^d^ duo^d^	1

I want of

Columbian Spelling books	60
Rational do [4]	6

I congratulate you on so valuable an acquisition as the Match to my Present from Judge Kinsey. How many engravings are there in it. Select the Spirit stirring tear-starting Designs. In what forwardness is the New Bible? When will it fall from the Press? Can't you send a half sheet for Brundige?

[1] *A View of Society and Manners in France, Switzerland, Germany, and Italy:* . . . Written by John Moore, M.D. During his Travels . . . with . . . the present Duke of Hamilton. . . . Philadelphia: . . . Robert Bell . . . M DCC LXXX III. LC.

[2] *Moral and Literary Dissertations; chiefly intended as the sequel to a father's instructions.* The second edition; revised, and much enlarged; by Thomas Percival, M.D. . . . Warrington, printed by W. Eyres, for J. Johnson . . . London, MDCCLXXXIX. BPL.

[3] *Pursuits of Literature.* A Satirical Poem In Four Dialogues, . . . [*Thomas J. Mathias.*] The LC. has two Philadelphia editions of 1800, but neither is of Carey. — Reviewed in *The General Magazine & Impartial Review*, June, 1798, Art. 18, p. 301, NYHS.

[4] *Ad.* 'For Sale at this Office . . . Rational Spelling Book . . .' *Bartgis's Republican Gazette* (Fredericktown, Md.), Jan. 21, 1803 *et seq.*, AAS.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES. July 15. 1802.

SIR. I am hourly call[d] on for books which, I doubt not, are in your collection. Catalogues well distributed may cut out good work: *good* it shall [*be*] cut out, or none that I'm determined. . . .

Today I set out in quest of the Bibles.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES July 22. 1802.

SIR, . . . Returned yesterday from Alexandria where I found the Bibles, Viz. 44-4[tos] & 12, 8[os]. The Box split in two, several of the Bibles villainously punctur[d], and some of the little books, probably, lost. The box was within an ace of being carried back to Philad[a], owing to lack of Directions Please direct, in future, to Mr. I. N. [*sic, for J. V.?*] Thomas. Day after tomorrow I set out with Capt[n]. McClenachan. Up the country we go, preaching and Distributing Bibles.

The Days of Old, the days of my New Jersey Campaign are coming back. I feel the kindling of my Soul. But why sh[d] it kindle? five days, and my fuel will be gone.

I have orders for —

Copy Ossian	1
Johnson's lives of the Poets	1
Thompson's Season's	1
All elegant print & binding.	
Darwin's Zoonomia [1]	1

You have no cause to complain. I have now sent you 380 Dol[s], tho' untill yesterday's arrival, I have receiv[d] but 50 Bibles. The whole of this parcel, at 6 Dol. pr Bible, w[d] not amount, by 80 Dol to what I have *sent you*. But in place of vending the 50 I vended but 30, leaving the rest at Fredericksburg where they arrived. On my return from Fauquier I shall go thither & collect & remit to you. Till now, (and *scarcely* now,) I have not receiv[d] books sufficient to call forth my exertion. Think of 50 Bibles in *9 weeks* and say who has cause to Complain!!!

[1] 'Zoonomia: Or, the Laws of Organic Life. By Erasmus Darwin, M.D., F.R.S.' Advertised in the *City Gazette & Daily Advertiser* (Charleston, S. C.), Oct. 25, 1796 *et seq.*, CLS.

'Tis impossible you can be sufficiently alert in sending on to Alexandria & to Baltimore 50 to the former & 30 to the latter place. I wrote to you for some Columb. Spellg books. Solomon Myers owes me 165 Dol. for small books. I have begg^{d} you a thousand times to settle it for me, by getting him to do something for you.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

DUMFRIES. July 24. 1802.

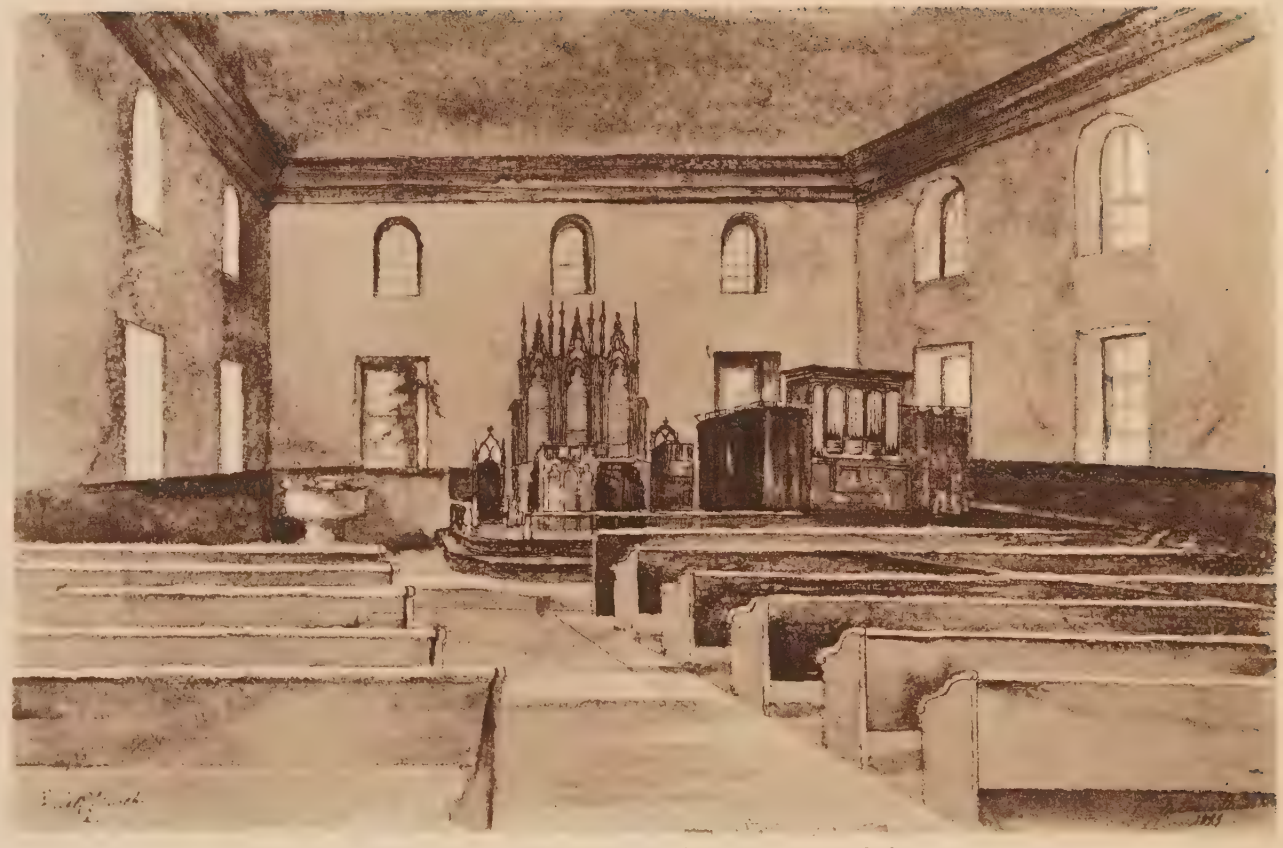
SIR.

3 days ago, gave Mr. B ..... 40.
Now — give unto D^{o} 40

Not Bible money but monies collected by my little store, & by other means.

"Remittances drag on heavily" you say — and yet I've sent 420 Dol. tho' I have scarcely yet laid my hand on the second shipment of 44 Bibles. Mr. Carey I never complain. As soon w^{d} the noblest of Erin's horses complain, when well fed, well litter^{d} and gently rode, he carried an eye of fire & a tail of pride, as I w^{d} complain if well paid & duly supplied [*with*] favourite work. But has this been your way with me? In Jersey, by your own confession, I got not ammunition half as fast as I coud have fir^{d} it! and here I've been *nine weeks* and just now receiv^{d} the 2^{d} shippment of 44 Bibles! and this to me too, who in a single *day* have sold for you in Collins's Bible beaten tracks of N. Jersey, 41 Bibles. Yes, 41 Bibles in a single day. And yet you say and you *wonder* that I *complain*. As to "well paid," in *this* Bible edition N^{o} 1 I *am well paid*. But I cannot say the same of N^{o}. 2. However, as you told me I shou'd have the distribution & collection of those subscrib^{d} for to your Post Master Aids, If they be briskly shipp^{d} around to me to the different towns I may, by rapid collections from them & from my own exertions, I may perhaps make enough to write myself "Freeman."

Send on as fast as you can. You shall (Deo volente) have a stout remittance in a few days. In two hours I get under weigh preach^{g} & Distributing. Send me the books *Order'd*. Also if you can, 6 Doddridge



INTERIOR OF POHICK CHURCH, VIRGINIA, IN 1899
After a wash drawing by M. Louisa Stuart

Rise & Progress [1] — 6 Pilgrim's progress — 6 Erastus Roots Arithmetic Have you seen *anything* of my wandering Ledger.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES — July 29. 1802.

SIR. . . . Captn McClenaghan & myself set out and met 17 of our subscribers. But, in consequence of the non arrival of a waggon with Bibles from Alexandria, I was obligd to come back, a distance of 50 miles, for the Bibles, which I shall set out for tomorrow, & the day following push on again to meet McClenaghan.

In a few days you may expect another handsome remittance —

I very much want a box of Bibles at Balto. However, as you have promisd to make a reserve of 50 to 75 more I am content to wait till the present 182 shall be paid for.

My heart is set upon having it to say that I sold off one half of your whole edition — 68 more will make up the half.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES [*received Aug. 13, 1802.*]

SIR. . . . I hope I shall make you out, weekly, an equal remittance, tho' I am somewhat confined in my Operations. In consequence of your long delay in sending me on the Bibles, I went, in a fit of passion (of the self-preservative kind) and engaged with a parish or rather, yielded to the importunities of my Old Mount Vernon Parishoners,[2] to preach for them, once a fortnight, till the first *day of December.*

However, notwithstanding that *dead weight*, I hope I shall send you weekly 100 Dols.

I askd you to send me some books; but you have sent me others;

[1] Philip Doddridge's *Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul* was issued in a New York undated edition, LC.

[2] Of Pohick Church, Truro Parish, where Weems officiated, under temporary agreements, during more than one period. Washington attended service off and on at this church until 1788, but there is no evidence whatever that Weems had personal relations with him or had even met him. His claim that he had been Rector of Mt. Vernon Parish, made on the title page of his *Life of Washington*, 1808 and subsequently, must therefore be set down as a skillful bit of advertising. See *Bibliography, title 11*, and *Appendix XIX*. See also letters of Nov. 1, 1802, and July 10, 1816.

the former, as I *told* you, were engaged & w^d instantly have been paid for; these latter (the 8° Bibles) not engaged.

But this is but an encore of your old Mal-policy which has already done us both much harm. How often have I conjur^d you by all the Gods, to send me none but such books as I order? and which I can soon vend for you?

How many hundreds of Dollars worth of Books, which will lie dead on your hands all this Season, cou'd I sell for you on the safe and certain ground of Orders.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

DUMFRIES Aug. 23, 1802.

SIR . . . I have now a journey of 200 Miles, (going and coming) to make to Richmond for the Books sent thither.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

DUMFRIES. Octob. 2. 1802

SIR: . . .

NB. . . . These 30 were torn from the hands of M^r. Lenox Martin. Mix it not with my pure coin of the Bible. Now for the "Evidences;" Send one of your little Shavers up to N° 118 North fourth st, to that man of God the Rev^d Ezekiel Cooper:[1] lo, he hath just printed or rather, reprinted an holy Book, entitled "An Appeal to Fact & Common Sense &c." 'Tis generally call^d. "*Fletcher's* Appeal." You, who have recently printed Priestly's Biographico-Chrononhotonthological Synopsis,[2] need not to be told that this Fletcher was a famous Divine of the last century. A native of Geneva, but a Labourer in Britain. His mind's eye was beyond that of his countryman, our Gallatin, and his pen, like the sword of Fingal prostrated all his Foes. Get, I say, this Appeal, turn to page, 136; there you will find a Summary of "*the Evidences*," clear, concise and energetic, to your Mind. NB, at page 149, line 2^d Ducian sh^d begin with an L. But Cooper is not, like you, a

[1] A letter of recommendation for Carey's Family Bible in the *True American* (Trenton, N. J.), December, 1803 [HU.], is signed: 'Ezekiel Cooper, one of the Ministers, and Superintendent of the Book-concern for the Methodist Episcopal Church, in the United States.'

[2] 'D^r. Mr Mathew Carey To William Barker . . . 1801 . . . October 21^st Two plates of Priestley's Biographical Chart engraved by Tanner . . . [$]36.3?' *Mathew Carey Accoun Books*, Vol. 17, 7609. See *Addenda*.

Scholar nor a man of taste. Read it, and perhaps you may detect some other errors.

Observe this Apology will make one Sheet. On a small type, perhaps not half a sheet.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

DUMFRIES. October 12, 1802.

Dr. SIR. Returnd from a little excursion, I send you 60 Dols. I was not at home when yours arrivd. But now set myself to answer it. You ask, shall I begin at 1. "The sacred Penman?"[1] Yes to be sure, but then we must cap it with some little Cornice or frieze of the introductory sort, otherwise it must look frightfully bald & bare. Suppose, as you are a good hand at a preface, you were to sketch out a little preamble, something in this way, immediately following the Argument of —

Chap. 17.

A concise and animated view of the Evidences of the Christian Religion, and its natural tendency to promote both Individual and National Happiness.

To say nothing of a *School Bible* and *Testamt*, of which having the types always set, I am annually editing *thousands of Copies*. This is now the Third edition of a Family Bible, which I have had the honor to present to the Citizens of the U. States. For my own part I am not ashamd to acknowledge myself a firm *Believer* and, let me add, an ardent Admirer also of the Christian System. A Religion wh. teaches so Rational and Sublime a Devotion — "*Thou shalt love the Lord Thy God with all thy heart.*" A Religion which breathes such Angelic Charity — "*Thou shalt love thy Neighbour as thyself, and shalt do unto him as thou woudst he shoud do unto thee.*" A Religion which confirms those best and noblest hopes of Nature — "*The Immortality of the Soul and a Glorious Futurity to the Virtuous,*" Such a Religion is surely most worthy of God, and most worthy of human acceptation; and I confess I have no idea of a religion better calculated to draw men off from Vice, to animate them to every thing Great and Good; and thus to refine, to sublime [*sic*] and to make

[1] A quotation from J. Fletcher's *Appeal to Matter of Fact & Common Sense*, beginning 'The sacred pen-men the Prophets and Apostles,' and used as one of the supplements in Carey's second and many subsequent editions of the Bible.

Happy the whole Human Race. But as some Gentlemen, merely for lack of examining its Truth and Excellence, do not think quite so highly of the Bible, and are consequently depriving themselves of the strongest as well as sweetest motives to *Duty*, and the richest Cordials under *Affliction*, I have thought proper, with this my Third Edition of the Family *Bible*, to present a few Rational Arguments to evince its Divine Authority.

1. "The Sacred Penman &c. &c."

End with, "*than we do in cordially receiving it.*"

The foregoing defence of the Scriptures, is the production of the Rev^{d} M^{r} Fletcher. That true Religion and Morality may flourish, and with them *universally* the Rights, Liberties, and Happiness of Mankind is the sincere wish of

The Public's Most Obed^{t}
Mat. Carey.
Yours
M. L. Weems.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Dumfries Octob. 20. 1802.

Sir. . . . If it be not a good Note, inclose it immediately to M^{r} Ch^{s} Tyler who has promis^{d} to replace it. Mr. Brundige thinks it *good*.

Within 10 or 12 days I hope to send you something handsome.

Volti.

Tis this selfsame Tyler who has gotten several Subs. for Bibles.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Dumfries. Nov. 1. 1802.

Sir. Within three days I mount the stage for your City. I hope to bring a pretty decent bag with me. "Have you," say you, "any Subscribers" "No, none, except some of the Old side." I told you many months ago, that after the long waiting in vain for the Bibles, and seeing my precious days running down to waste I had, in a fit of dispair engag^{d} to preach in the Mount Vernon Church once a fortnight, till

now.[1] Confin[d] to such narrow space, it was impossible to push my paper beyond its former limits.

However tho no new names appear yet I find my Columns still occupied by numbers of former Subscribers who declin[d] the 1[st]. edition for sake of the 2[d]. I care but little about Subscribers to A Bible. I had but 340 Subscribers last Nov. in Jersey, and of these great numbers having contracted for the quantity & for the *coarse* sort, *did not take*, and yet In New Jersey alone and within a radius of 60 Miles, I sold 700 Bibles and more. You told me I sh[d] have the distribution & collection of all your Subscriptions. Then let the Bibles be push[d] on the big Cities &c. &c. And leave the rest to me. But I feel the weight of a Millstone around the neck of my hopes. The Binders! the Binders! the Binders! Never did a Wild Asse's Colt so tremble at thought of a Lion as I do at thought of the Binders. Stain[d] with paste, the fly leaves look wretchedly *patch[d]* — however let the subject drop. Your Fame and Fortune are at Stake.

Day after tomorrow I mount the roaring stage.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

[*Probably Wilmington*] Nov. 17, 1802.

Please to send *one quire* Bible Advertisemen[ts]. I expected letters by mail. Have I any today? Please send to see. Send more Advertisements in the boxes; 1/2 quire to each 100.

Be so good as to send over to Jacob Johnson for my books, and stow them, with the Gross of Columbian Spell[g] books, in my large trunk purchas[d] for the Elegant *Ordered* books for Dumfries.

The sooner the better — the sooner will the trunk be out of your way — the sooner will the books be at Dumfries, and the sooner will the money be in your hands.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

WILMINGTON. Nov. 19. 1802.

SIR, Inclosed I send you 70 Dols.

I hasten to Mount Vernon. Thence shall hasten back to Baltimore where I hope to commence with your Bibles & the Washing-

[1] See note to letter [*received August 13, 1802*].

toniad [1] in 12 days from this date. From Balt° I pass on to Annapolis, to the Synod [*of*] the State. have the Bibles, N° 100, in readiness there for me. If the[*y*] cou'd be sent in the neat long boxes 10^{s} & 11^{s}, well paper^{d}, it might be better.

You can't be too particular in marking and direct^{g} them.

Address them to some good safe hand in Balt° where I shall expect to find a letter from you.

[To Thomas Jefferson] *LC.*

Dumfries Nov. 22 [*1802.*]

Very Honord Sir, I beg your acceptance of the inclosure "The True Patriot." 'Tis among the first of my little callow brood, and throughout, bears too evident marks of the pinfeather, but I think I feel the growing strength of my quill, and hope e'er long to send you something better worth perusal. I had the hardiesse to ask of you a line somewhat recommendatory of "Sidney's Republic," a work much extoll'd by *Taylor*, Rush, & Dickinson. But these, tho great men & True, are, comparatively, but stars of feeble light, and seen, only by the Few.

But your Excellency's Wisdom, Humanity, and Rank, have made you as a Sun in our land; and one beam of your approbation thrown on Sidney's Liberty pleading Vol. w^{d}. render it the dazzling desideratum of thousands. This w^{d} be cutting out good work for an honest Ambition that has learned its right aim "the increased Happiness of Man," and covets but little more, now, at middle life, than to be doing something that may cheer the fire side of old age.

That God may continue your Excellency a Great Blessing to our Nation, is both the Sabbath & Week day prayer of your very Ob^{t}.

M. L. Weems.

[To Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 49.*

Elkton. Nov. 22. 1802.

Sir: . . . Hurry on my Books & Bibles to Alexand^{a} & to Balt°. Shall be at the last named place on the 30th Inst.

[1] Probably alluding to Wayne's publication of Marshall's *Life of Washington.*

L. & F. Vol. 49.
HAVRE DE GRACE. Nov. 23. 1802.

SIR. . . . I expected letters with money from Virginia. Fast as they arrive open and lighten them of their [*con*]tents.

L. & F. Vol. 49.
BALTO, Nov. 24. 1802.

SIR. . . . Open all letters sent to [*me?*] at Philad[a].

Look sharp to the North. I long to see Bunkers hill & once more to set Charleston in flames. Look sharp to the South. I hope to be here for the Bibles in 6 days. Ammunition!!

L. & F. Vol. 49.
DUMFRIES. Nov. 30. 1802.

SIR. . . . What have you done in the way of remittances to the North and East? I long to owe you nothing but Good will — I languish to be doing a great deal in a short Life.

If a few Calf bound cou'd be sent on to Richmond it might be well.

Hand & Elwood are at Phila[d].

Think and Dream much of the best ways and means to employ my Exertions to best uses.

[To CALEB P. WAYNE [1]]

Dreer Col. HSP.
BALTO. [*Dec.?*] 8. 1802.

D[r]. SIR. . . . I told you not to look out for squalls till I got on the subscriptioneering ground. I arriv[d] here 3 days ago. I average 12 Sub[s]. pr day. *Thank God for that.*

I want a change in our plan of remuneration. Your present allowance will not allow me to do anything for you, thro' the *adjutancy of others*. You give to the Tag Rag and Bobtail 1 for 15. What will you give to your

MASON L. WEEMS?

[1] Weems formed a connection with Wayne, as his agent, chiefly in getting subscriptions for John Marshall's *Life of Washington* (*Bibliography, title 249*).

You shall hear from me again shortly, i.e. God granting us good success.

If the work be done handsomely you will vend at least 20,000. I shall be at Annapolis & the Federal City the next week. After that shall revisit Balt°. Love to the family.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Balt° [*Dec.*] 9th. 1802.

Sir. You ask —

1st. How I succeed? I answer, We had here but 5 Subscribers. I hope to vend 45. You say, 2d To whom do they go? to Subscribers, or to Subscribers non? Why more than half go off in the lump at 7.25. Hagerty is pleasd to blow on them at that. They talk of doing wonderful things at importation from Europe. The town teems with bibles of all sorts & sizes. Durell's Bibles lie here in heaps, in the book stores, like Chocolate boxes at a grocer's.

You inquire,

3dly How the work is generally liked?

Why, it fares with it just as I predicted in a 1000 letters from New York & elsewhere. The Plebians admire it; the Patricians think it too coarse for [*a*] present to their silken Dames. "Tis a damned pity," say they to me every [*hour*] "that such Engravings & additions shd be [*spoiled?*] by such paper & binding." I conjured you by my disappointments at New York, to have 4 or 500 done on a fine paper with Calf binding. But my voice is never heard. However tis no time this to complain — and your present edition is beyond all criticism, however malignant, I mean 'tis perfectly safe. You ask what is become of my Dumfries money? My salary, I suppose you mean. I have not touchd a copper of it yet, and I fear I shall not till spring. The story is too long now for detail. However I hope I shall make out to redeem my notes as they become due. I set out tomorrow to utter my valedictory in Fairfax.[1] In 5 days, hope to return.

Why did you charge me 2.50 for trunk for Law books to Dumfries? Dont you recollect I bought a handsome trunk 4.50 and had it bro't to No. 118 to pack said books?

[1] Probably in Pohick Church, Truro Parish, Fairfax County.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Balt°. Dec. 10. 1802.

Dear Sir. . . . In my last I hinted the expediency of a change in our plan of Remuneration. The Mass of Riches and of Population in America lie in the Country. There is the wealthy Yeomanry; and there the ready thousands who w^d^ instantly second you were they but duly stimulated. But this is to be done not by poor Devils of Post Masters scatter'd about at Cross roads and dirty Villages, but by your driving Majors & Colonels, your sturdy Knights of wealth so rare and daughters fair that they can do what they please in their neighbourhoods, so that the young Fellows rather than refuse them a subscription w^d^ ram their own heads in a brick kiln. Such are the Men who are to be brought into action, and such, travelling as I do thro' the Earth, I easily coud bring into action: but not, as you well know, on the allowance as pr present establishment. I am not content with my allowances: nor can be. Because 'tis much less than what you give to all Others. You give one Copy to any man who will procure you 15 subscribers i,e, one dollar for each subscription. I get but an inconsiderable fraction over a fourth of that allowance! A fat Bookseller who sweats over his Beefsteak or sleeps on his counter and barely takes the names of those who chance to call on him, sh^d^ not surely get the liberal allowance of him who leaves Father & Mother, Wife & Children to subscriptioneer it thro' the world. And yet that man, who scarcely obtains *15 Subscrib^s^.* shall receive three times as much [*as*] the other who may get fifteen hundred.

I set off home tomorrow but shall return in 4 or 5 days. I sh^d^ be glad to have your sentiments on this subject — I w^d^ have you to attend to the reasonings in the early part of this letter. I have been here 5 days, have obtain^d^ 71 subscrip^s^. M^r^ Hill[1] & his Friends have not treated me with the liberality which might have been expected. Your sowing the papers so thick in the towns, harms me and may do you no good.

[1] 'Hill Geo. bookseller & stationer, 124 do [*Baltimore st*]' *Baltimore Directory*, 1802, LC.

[To Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 49.*
Balt°. Dec. 14. 1802.

Sir. . . . Poor Durell, will I fear, be ruin[d] by his Crown foli°. The Men in whom he confided to distribute & collect &c &c have, tis said, done most abominable things.

I shall want, I suppose, at least 50 more Bibles here, but you had better perhaps for cheapness, to send them round by the *Capes*. I shall go away from this place in 4 days.

In selling my bibles about town I have pick[d] up subscriptions, [*for*] Wayne to amount of 1500 Dol[s].' W[d] God you had got that work.

[To C. P. Wayne] *Dreer Col. HSP.*
Balt°. Dec. 14 1802

Dear Sir, . . . I shall be here till the 17[th]. The People are very fearful that it will be prostituted to party purposes. I mean, of course, the Life of Washington. For Heaven's sake drop now and then a cautionary hint to John Marshal Esq[r]. Your all is at stake, with respect to this work. If it be done in a generally acceptable manner, you will make your fortune otherwise the work will fall an Abortion from the press.

I have repeatedly told you, that duly encouraged by a different system of Remuneration, I coud greatly aid you in this extensive Undertaking —

[To Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 49.*
Balt°. Dec. 15. 1802.

Sir: — . . . It grieves me to tell you any thing that may render you unhappy, but these Binders (w[d] God [*you*] knew 'em as well as I do) are got to their old pranks again. To say nothing of their numberless Misplacings, omissions of Prints &c &c they have utterly emasculated *two copies* which I shall have to send back to you, as unfit to multiply doll[s].

I have now sent you from this place, in 10 days — 440 Dol[s]. — in 3 days I go away.

I think I must have 50 copies more here, but it were cheaper to send them around, as I shall not want them until I come back which will not be sooner than 4 weeks.

W^d God I were out of this place for the Booksellers here Natives and Foreigners, Saints & Sinners all tell me, by their looks, that they hate [*the*] very sight of

M. L. Weems.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Balt^o. [*Dec.*] 17, 1802.

D^r. Sir —. . . I am surpris^d that you take no notice of the contents of my two last, at least, no effectual notice, for after a whole fol^o of manuscript, you leave the Subject where you found it. I *assure you that you are not a little interested in it.* And it amazes me that you sh^d allow so thin a veil of a conclusion so uncertain to hide it with all its mountainous consequences from your sight. You say that we may expect more subscrib^s from the towns than from the Country. For a moment admit it. Does it follow that the Country is a mere blank, a cypher not worth your notice? Because there are 30,000 wealthy families in the City, and but 20,000 in the Country must nothing be tried to enlist 5000 at least of these 20,000??? If the Fed^s. sh^d be disappointed, and the Demo^s disgusted with Gen^l Marshal's performance, will it not be vastly convenient to have 4 or 5000 good Rustic Blades to lighten your shelves & to shovel in the Dol^s.?

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Balt^o. Dec. 18. 1802

D^r. Sir: — On the 16. sent you — 60.

Now 18 send you 100. Thus since the 4, i.e. in 14 days have sent from this town, 600 dol!

God be prais^d. This moment I set off.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Annapolis. Dec. 22. 1802.

Sir. . . . [*A list follows.*] Which makes, (on this cargo of 99 Bibles to Balt^o) the amount of my Remittances to be — 640.

Two of them were defective, which I left with Mess^rs Warner & Hanna.[1] I hope to bring them up in 5 or 6 Weeks, if you sh^d not, before that time, order them around.

My ammunition has entirely given out — great prospects of Sales. I expect to be here, in 6 days from this date. Mess^r Green's [2] are not yet quite supplied.

This moment I set off for Virginia.
We are always deficient in the Articles of Bibles.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Annapolis. Dec. 22, 1802.

D^r. Sir . . . I got here, night before last, and found that Mess^rs. Green had obtain^d but 12 Sub^s.!! I instantly determin^d, the House still in session, to congregate them. Next morning I threw in a Note to the chair soliciting the honor of uttering before them a *Patriotic Oration*.[3] They came together they were pleas^d, and have begun to subscribe. I have already gotten 16 names & have hopes that on my return here next week, shall get on my own & on Mess^rs Green's paper at least 50 names. Patriotic Orations — Gazette Puffs — Washingtonian Anecdotes sentimental, moral, military & wonderful — All sh^d be tried and every exertion made to push into every family, into every hand so very interesting & highly moralizing a work as Yours but alass! I am not able to do it on my present allowance. M^r. Geo. Hill gave out to the Gentlemen of Balt^o. that I had no authority to take in subcrib^s, and I was actually call^d on for subscript^n money, and yet for lack of allowance I cou'd not venture into the Newspapers to scourge the Invidious Non-Natural! Give me one copy for every 10, in boards & I'll stick by you to the close of this heavy work & will call in the aid of hundreds of the most Safe & Influential Characters. In Carey's elegant Family Bible, a work of *double the contents* of Washing^s. Biography, I gave one for 5!! & the work handsomely *bound* too!!! . . .

[1] 'Warner & Hanna, book-printers & booksellers, 37 Baltimore st. corner of south Gay st' *Baltimore Directory*, 1802, LC.

[2] Printers and booksellers of Annapolis.

[3] I have sought for a mention of this Oration in the *Maryland Gazette* [MdStL.] of Annapolis, but have found none. He may have used his *True Patriot*.

I long, long, to be with you, but think I must not miss Congress, Fredericks[g], Richmond & the Virginia Assembly. Shall be here again in 6 days.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Dumfries Dec. 27. 1802.

Sir. By Mr. Brundige I send 160 which make, nearly, the amount of the Law & Historico-Miscellaneous books just arriv[d]. 'Twas but the day before yesterday that I received your letter and your Phillipic about the man of Brandywine. You have been egregiously impos[d] on, I no less barbarously calumniated by this smo[*o*]th tongued Churchman. You gave me sundry subscription lists. Among these was one that call[d] for *Brandywine hundred*. Arriv[d] at Brandywine, I selected the paper appropriate and inquired for the Foreman. He was not at the Tavern. But I found six or seven of his Subscribers who told me that they were very ready to take their books provided I w'd let them go at 7.20, the price agreed on at time of subscription. For, you must be inform'd that this same gentleman who rais[d] such a hue & cry about my vending Bibles at 7.20, had, in order to allure subscribers, promis'd that the eleventh book, or 800 cents, sh[d] be divided among the 10 magnanimous Subscribers. This you know w[d] reduce their individual subscript[s] from 800 to 720, a reduction which they most resolutely insisted on, promising, next morning, (being Market day at Wilmington) to send their Foreman to me but he never came!! I hope you will write to him and urge the Legal, moral & religious obligation on him, especially as he is a Vestryman, to take up the other two Bibles, (for I sold but 8) and to collect the 80 cents deficient on each of those so basely swindled by his Friends.

I set off tomorrow to vend & collect but I shall do but little for 10 days.

L. & F. Vol. 49.

Alexand[a]. Dec. 30. 1802

D[r] Sir. . . . Tho much interrupted I find that I have been fortunate enough to send you in this month 820. Dol[s]. I fear I shall not make such remittances in the next month. [*Am*] now on a most silly trip to Annapolis to furnish, perhaps, 10 Bibles. A trip of 3 days!!!

I find you advise me to continue in the South till spring. If you have not furnish[d] the Maryland Sub[s]. (neither Eastern nor Western Shore) nor the Virginia d°. I sh[d] find it worth my while to continue here, especially if you w[d] instantly send on 100 Bibles more to Alexand[a] & 3 weeks hence, 50 or 100 to Balt°. Annapolis, Georgetown, the Federal City & Alexand[a] will engage my attention for 10 days. After that I shall p[*ush on to?*] Richmond. I cou'd wish you [*wou'd*] not inundate Richmond with any Bible effusions untill those sent to me were dispos[d] of.

I thank you for desiring a M[r]. Thomas of S[t]. Mary's Maryland, to call on me at Balt°. for 10 Bibles. He did so: and the monies were sent you in the handsome supplies of the day. If I had 2 or 300 Bibles at Alexand[a], and the Post Masters in the lower parts of Maryland & those in the upper & back parts of Virginia were notified to negociate with me thro the hands of the two wholesale merchants of Alexand[a], i.e. Joseph Riddle & Jacob Hoffman [1] we should be going on more expeditiously. However, this Grand Bible Business of yours will soon fall into its right track. I deem it a sore evil that the paper & some of the cuts will not allow me the pleasure of dashing away in the Newspapers. That Razor straps and worm lozenges, sh[d], by bold puffings, have made fortunes to noisy Quacks, while 2 editions of a Quarto bible are oblig[d] to steal thro' the country with as little noise, as so many mice thro' a pantry.

[1] *Ad.* 'Salt. 10,000 bushels of coarse Salt, For Sale by Joseph Riddle and Co., Sept. 9.' *Alexandria Advertiser & Commercial Intelligencer*, Sept. 17, 1801 *et seq.*, AAS. — 'The Co-partnership . . . firm of Joseph Riddle & Co. of Alexandria, was dissolved . . . by mutual consent: . . . Joseph Riddle, of Alexandria. James Dill, of Baltimore. September 18.' *Alexandria Daily Advertiser*, Nov. 29, 1805, HU.; other advertisements of Joseph Riddle, in subsequent issues. — 'Fall Goods. Jacob Hoffman Is now opening (in the store formerly occupied by Thompson and Veitch) Part of his Fall Assortment, received by the Reserve from London, and is now in daily expectation of receiving the remainder by the first arrivals from Liverpool. *Alexandria Advertiser & Commercial Intelligencer*, Sept. 16, 1801 *et seq.*, AAS. — 'In Pursuance Of an order of the Common Council the citizens in this town are hereby requested to meet at the Court House . . . and to take into consideration the memorial . . . to be laid before Congress, relative to the Charter of the town. Jacob Hoffman, Mayor . . .' *Alexandria Expositor*, Jan. 7, 1804, HU. — An article from Alexandria, dated May 20 and addressed to the Public, disclosing the pretensions of one Peter Bainbridge to be authorized to preach in churches and collect money for missionary purposes under the assumed name of Philander Blake, is signed among other names, by Jacob Hoffman. *Petersburg Intelligencer*, May 29, 1810, AAS. — Was guardian, Oct. 1812, to Susan Payne Peyton, daughter of Valentine Peyton. See *Hayden's Genealogies*, p. 566, LXX, LC.

Rely upon it, Sir, vivacity is much an art, and depends greatly upon habit. — SAMUEL JOHNSON.

L. & F. Vol. 52.

GEO. TOWN. Jan^{y}. 5. [*1803.*]

D^{r} SIR. . . . This vile trip to Annapolis will tie my hands for a week. Thank God my prospects from yourself & from Wayne are good — because they promise me utter liberation in a twelve month or so.

L. & F. Vol. 52.

GEO. TOWN, Jan^{y}. 12. 1803.

D^{r} SIR. Inclosed I send you 80 Dol^{s}. I am just returned from Annapolis: & hope now soon to attend [*to*] the best of Books.

L. & F. Vol. 52.

ALEXAND^{a}. Jan^{y} 15. 1803

SIR. T'other day I sent you 80 —

Now I send you 100 —. I let Mr. Westcott[1] of this town take eleven of my Bibles for his Sub^{s}. Has he paid you? Hand took flour to Philad^{a} therewith to pay you. I cou'd not for my soul sell the 10 Octavo Bibles which you sent me. I did indeed make shift by crediting them to push off 3, paid or not paid is a toss up.

Set off this hour for Dumfries, thence Richmond &c. I long to be going among the Bible loving People of the North.

[1] John Westcott, of the firm of Thomas & Westcott, printers of *The Times & Alexandria Advertiser*, advertised extensively in the local papers. — 'Wanted, Two apprentices to the Printing Business, one or two smart lads, about 15 or 16 years of age. — They will be taken on liberal terms. Apply to Thomas & Westcott.' *Times & Alexandria Advertiser*, Apr. 24, 1798, AAS. — 'In Council, February 19, 1800. The following persons were elected . . . for the ensuing year . . . J. & J. D. Westcott continued Printers for the Corporation.' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette*, Feb. 27, 1800, AAS.

L. & F. Vol. 52.
RICHMOND Jan^{y} 22. 1803

D^{r} SIR. . . . I came here hoping, nay, confiding as sure & certain, to find the Bibles you promis^{d} me: but behold! none are come!!! The sight of Bibles on bibles, and boxes on boxes heap'd with shining profusion in Mr. Pleasants store awaken'd a momentary pang. I felt as a man, who having had the honor to originate this Bible business on your mind, thought he had a claim superior and a prior right to Mr. Pleasant. But 'tis nothing. If Bibles are not sent me, I shall not have them to pay for. And, thank God, I am not idle, nor lacks there an opportunity to furnish both payment to you and Bread and Education to my children. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 52.
RICHMOND. Jany 31. 1803.

SIR. I sent you 200 $ for Helmbauld,[1] last week — Now I send you *twenty* for yourself. I came here to sell Bibles to the Assembly. The Bibles have not come — The Delegates are gone — it were better to send no more to this place for your

M. L. WEEMS

we must manage better.

L. & F. Vol. 52.
PETERSBG. Feb. 7. 1803

SIR. Jan'y 31 — I sent you 20.
Now I send you 10.

I have not seen nor sold one of your Bibles for 4 weeks past. In my last I told you how I had been disappointed of Bibles at Richmond: I also told you it w^{d} be wrong to send any more than those order^{d} (33).

If you *have not* yet furnished the Winchester Martinsburg, Fredericktown Fauquier, Leesburg, Culpepper &c Subscribers, you may send me on a few more to Alexandria. I hope to be at Dumfries in 20 Days, thence in a short time, shall be ready to furnish your subscribers in the North & East. . . .

[1] 'Helmbold George, J. printer, . . . paper maker 7 N Fourth' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1802, LC. — Later publisher of the newspaper *Tickler*. — See also *The Picture of Philadelphia*, James Mease, M.D., Philadelphia, 1811, on p. 84, LC.

If you *have furnish*[d] the places above mentioned, send no more Bibles to Alexandria.

[*M. L. W.?*]

'"The Philanthropist," *Addressed to* Thomas Jefferson, *on reading his late Message.*

"This *man may claim a* kindred with the skies;
"*He sees all human kind with* God-like *eyes,*
"*His* heavenly *breast no other passion knows;*
"*Than love for man, and feeling for his woes.*
"*The* sacred *flame sets all his soul on fire;*
"*And sight of human bliss does bliss* divine *inspire.*"'

[*Anon.*] *Olio* (Georgetown), Feb. 17, 1803, NYPL.

The reasons for attributing this effusion to Weems aside from his known delight in slipping into verse, are that the style of the lines is strongly tinctured with his flavor and that he had spent some days in Georgetown. See letters of Jan. 5 and 12, also the following: 'Married, on Tuesday the 8th inst. by the Reverend *M. L. Weems*, Doctor Josias H. M. Pherson [*sic*], of Montgomery county, to the amiable Miss Elizabeth B. Hanson, daughter of *Major Samuel Hanson*, of Charles county.' *Olio*, Feb. 17, 1803, NYPL.; also printed in *Washington Federalist*, Feb. 16, 1803, LC.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 52.
Dumf. March 10, 1803.

Sir. . . . Dont send me any more Bibles.

L. & F. Vol. 52.
Alex[a]. March 25. [*1803*].

D[r] Sir. . . . Please to tell Mr. Jacob Johnson that I left his Bibles with Pritchard in Richmond, owing to a vile cross grain[d] accident, viz. the non receipt of his letter untill I came up to Dumfries. . . .

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.
Alex. March 25. 1803.

D[r] Sir. . . . E're you can have receiv[d] this, I shall, God willing, be dashing away among the Winchester Bucks. The God of Washington prosper me!!! From Winchester I shall hasten on thro' Martinsburg

&c. &c. &c. to find you in Philad[a] whence like Eagles of the sun we'll spread our Wings to the North & call the Lovers of Washington to our Nest. I thank you for waiting for me. Believe me, I trust you will find much Gratitude & much Industry & great Serviceableness &c &c in

your M. L. W.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 52.
Martinsb'g Apr. 2. 1803

Sir. Inclos[d] I send you $200. I am on my way up.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.
Martinsburg Ap. 2[d]. 1803.

D[r] Sir.

I am now hasting on with great speed, &, thank God, not without good success. In a few days you will see M. L. Weems.

My Bibles are, now, nearly all thrown overboard. In 6 weeks the P. Master here got 1. In ½ a day, thank God, I've got 13 sub[s].

Dreer Col. HSP.
Frederick. Ap. 8. 1803

D[r] Sir . . . In the paper which you sent here, to the protection of M[r] Bell,[1] not one subscription was obtain[d]!!! Bell is a good Federalist too!!! My little exertions, have, thank God, been rewarded with 23 names: and the bag not yet shaken neither, I hope. —

From Carlisle I mean to come strait on thro' York. Look for me on Monday or Tuesday, to commence with you.

Don't indulge a fear — let no sigh of thine arise. Give Old Washington fair play and all will be well. I mean Let but the Interior of the Work be *Liberal* & the *Exterior Elegant*, and a Town house & a Country house, a coach and sideboard of Massy Plate shall all be thine. I sicken when I think how much may be marr[d]. I tremble too when I think of

[1] Perhaps W. D. Bell, who printed Weems' *Life of Benjamin Franklin* at Hagerstown in 1818 'for the Author' (*Bibliography, title 133*). With J. F. Cook, Bell also printed for Weems, at Baltimore, the 1814 editions of his *Life of Marion* and his *God's Revenge against Murder* (*Bibliography, titles 86, 182*).

the *Paper Makers*. In *two* instances already have they been like the hoarfrost on all my full blossom'd hopes. God, I pray him, grant that this work may bring Moral Blessings on our Country & Honor and wealth on C. P. W. &

M. L. W.

[To Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 52.*

Frederick. Apr. 9. 1803

Sir, Inclos^d I send — 150 Dol^s. I am on my way to Philad^a.

[To C. P. Wayne] *Dreer Col. HSP.*

[*Chester — after Ap. 12? 1803.*]

D^r. Sir. . . . Having no Subscription papers I was oblig^d to strike off 150. I wanted a paper concise and frugal of time. I wanted a paper that w^d save a 1000 questions Viz "shall we have the history of the Revolution? What will be the price of binding?"

I shall go for Norfolk in two hours. My success here has been pretty good. I think you'll do Great things in this Affair. Virginia, I hope, will furnish a good quota — perhaps 2000 Subscribers. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

Carlisle. Ap. 18. 1803

D^r Sir. . . . At Gettysburg, you cut me entirely out. Mr. Cobeen [1] had thrown his net and caught 12 of the largest fishes, but not one of them had a piece of Silver in his mouth.

I began here this morning but without hope. Your Papers had been here and *no Subscribers* taken! the place had been represented to me as

[1] Alexander Cobean, once a resident of Baltimore, deputy for Cumberland township at a meeting of deputies in Gettysburg for the purpose of electing certain officers on September 16, 1805. From this meeting resulted a long political controversy between Mr. Cobean and one Jacob Cassat, conducted through the newspaper, whose editor found the exchange of vituperation becoming so unpleasant to his readers that he refused to publish any more articles by these gentlemen unless paid for as advertisements. See *Centinel* (Gettysburg, Pa.), October, 1805, GTOF. — A letter to Mr. William Crawford from Alexander Cobean in reply to some slanderous remarks about the cockade worn by him on a regimental day, is in *Adams Centinel* (Gettysburg, Pa.), Apr. 20, 1803, GTOF. — Alexander Cobean was authorized to collect proprietary dues for lands in Manor of Maske at his office in the house of Capt. James Scott of Gettysburg, where he lived himself. (Nov. 27, 1804.) *Ibid.*, Jan. 2, 1805, GTOF.

a Nest of Anti Washingtonian Hornets who w^d^ draw their stings at mention of his name — and the Federal Lawyers all gone to York — However, I dash^d^ in among them, and, *thank God* have obtain^d^ already 17 good names, with hopes of more. Tomorrow I shall start for Harrisburg, thence to York, thence to Lancaster, and thence to Philadelphia. I shall come on as fast as possible for a Man who does not wish to pass a single town or Hamlet, however inconsiderable, without engaging several copies, and interesting some of the most wealthy & Influential Federalists in your cause. I have had innumerable Drawbacks & Obstacles to retard my progress, but hope by the time I see you, to be in a better way. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

YORK — 22 April 1803

D^r^ SIR . . . I have reason to thank God for my success at Harrisburg. M^r^ Wyeth [1] advertised for you but got not a name. I got 19. At the little Dutch village of Middletown, my success was still more brilliant; in one house I got 10. I reach^d^ york last afternoon.

Sixteen have already scatter'd their dollars on the tomb of Washington. This is Friday: Look for me on Friday night. I shall write no more to you — my next communication will, I hope, be in the viva voce style. . . .

Look well to your Paper-Makers. On their honesty much depends. If they prove Villains farewell to Weems — "his Occupation's gone."

I've done nothing yet; and what I yet shall do, is unknown. "Time must shape, so there's an end."

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHRISTEEN June 30. [*1803*].

D^r^ SIR Inclos^d^ I send you Seventy Dollars. I am hastening down the Peninsula agreeably to the wish of Judge Washington. If M^r^ Clark [2] sh^d^ open this let him give *credit* instantly to

M. L. WEEMS.

[1] John Wyeth of Harrisburg, 1770–1858, editor of the *Oracle of Dauphin*, Harrisburg; bookseller and publisher and very active citizen. See *Pennsylvania Genealogies, Scotch-Irish and German*, William Henry Egle, M.D., M.A., Harrisburg, 1886, pp. 685–688, LC. — John Wythe [*sic*], postmaster, Harrisburg, Pa., Aug. 10, 1793 (first return) — 1820+ See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, p. 250, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.

[2] See *Addenda*.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 55.
Christeen June 30, 1803

Dr Sir . . . Inclosd I send you fifty Dollars. I have yet done nothing nor shall for a day or two longer; — being too near to Philada the glutted Mart of Books. But soon as I shall be gotten clearly out of these straits I may begin to do something — Please to send on 60 Bibles to Dumfries. Let Edmund take up a Bible (of the *largest* size) to Mr Kelly Trunk Maker,[1] as a Measure of length, depth & [*width*] a trunk 2 feet 10 inches . . . [*torn*] from out to out. Dont be weary I believe I shall make you a saving bargain.

Shall in my next be more particular — I go on down the peninsula —

Messrs. Nevins [2] beg you to send the two calf bound Bibles with psalms to Mr Levi Hollingsworth & Sons.[3] their Receipt for the Bibles will be good against David & Samuel Nevin.

Be very careful in binding up those Bibles in strong paper. But let not the gripe of Edmunds twine furrow the lovely Calf skin. People revere the Bible.

L. & F. Vol. 55.
Christa July 5, 1803.

Dr Sir. . . . Bad and all bad yet awhile. But twas not a miss to make [*a trial?*] perhaps some way better may turn out soon.

Nil desperandum

L. & F. Vol. 55.
Northampton. July 20. 1803.

Dr Sir. . . . I hope, that, at my preaching appointments, of which I have made a fine chain for next week, I shall get pretty nearly clear of my cargo. I have no doubt I shall save your bacon, tho' this Penin-

[1] Perhaps 'Kelly Thomas, trunkmaker 36 Bank,' or 'Kelly Thos. & Philip, shoe and trunk store 70 High.' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1803, lc.

[2] Samuel Nevin, postmaster, Christiana, Del., July 1, 1795 (first return) — Apr. 1, 1799; David Nevin, Apr. 1, 1799 (first return) — 1804. See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 104–105, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.

[3] 'Hollingsworth Levi, merchant 16 Dock' or 'Hollingsworth L. & Son, merchants 72 S. Wharves' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1803, lc. — Levi Hollingsworth of Baltimore elected a State Senator of Maryland in 1811; died in 1822. See *Annals of Baltimore*, Thomas W. Griffith, Baltimore, 1833, pp. 199, 239, lc. See also *Addenda*.

sula essay has not done well. Indeed I fear[d] (and I believe mention[d] my fears to Mr Carey) that all these little Eastern Shore Kraals were rather too intimate with Norfolk & Balt[o]. Philad[a] & New York.

I lament I did not bring more of the larger Dictionaries (8[os]) such as Johnson, Bailey [1] &c. What I had were soon snatch[d] up. Send a good supply of Johnson, Bailey & Sheridan, also young Clerk's Magazine, Charlotte Temple — and your *Almanacs*.

The moment I get home I shall go to packing & set off for the *Springs* or whithsoever you shall be pleased to order. As I do not think it right to keep on hand any more books than may quickly be transmuted into money, I w[d] advise to send, at this moment, only the *list above*, with the 50 Family Bibles mention[d] in my last, and a good many of your Catalogues especially your best *Law Catalogues*. Be assured I am all anxiety to get over to the Western Shore that I may be doing something for you equal to the Wishes of

D[r] Sir Your M. L. W.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

PHILAD[a]. July 25. 1803.

D[r] SIR. I told you that John Adams Esq[r]. had printed for me 5000 Almanacs.[2] You said you w[d] take them as our contract will not allow me to sell them for myself —

The paper — 21 Reams for 5000 — $39.20
For printing 3000 @ $11 p. 1000 — 33
$72.20

For this you will please to credit me. You have but to settle, with Mr. Adams for *printing only* of the other 2000 at 11$ p. 1000.

I shall set off in one hour. I shall write to you soon.

I have no doubt but I shall be able to sell among the *Good Republicans* of the South, at least 10,000 Almanacs for this coming year — *My Alm[c]* I mean, entitled Weems's Washington Almanac.

[1] Bailey, Nathan, d. 1742. *An universal etymological English dictionary.* The LC. has a Glasgow, 1802, edition.

[2] *Weems's Washington Almanack, for the Year 1804: . . . Carefully calculated for the latitude and Meridian of Philadelphia. By Abraham Shoemaker, New-York.* Philadelphia: Printed by John Adams. (*Bibliography, title 176.*)

L. & F. Vol. 55.

Dumfries Aug. 12. 1803

Dr Sir. . . . 'Twas not untill last night that I arrivd at home. And as Mrs. Weems is, most unfortunately, gone abroad I shall in two hours set out for Fairfax to attend the Court on Monday. You had so well supplied the Gentlemen of Delaware with Holy Writ, that I had scarcely thrown a dozen Bibles overboard when I got to Milford. At that place I found a Merchant who possessd [*an*] Elegant hot pressd Bible cost 25$ which he offerd for two of yours. I refusd. He then proposd, by way of inducement, to take an extra 6 of your Bibles at the wholesale cash prices, 7.25 — I again refusd but being desirous to be collecting for you I told him that if he wd pay the full subscription price 8$ for 6, I wd let him have two of our Quartos for his Elegant hot pressd. I reason'd thus — these Bibles do not perhaps cost Mr. Carey more than 6$, he will therefore be getting the Elegant hot pressd for 12$, and as he will get the full subscription price 8$ for 6 more, his clear gain 4.50 (the difference between the subscription & wholesale prices) will bring Small & Thompson's hot pressd,[1] down to 7.50. I do not care how soon you send the Almanacs if you send any. I cou'd have sold a good many more Bibles. Mr. Sorden [2] of Milford, promisd he wd send the Bible to you. I am not certain with respect to the present wholesale prices of your Bibles — *please* to let me know. Give me full instructions on the Bible business: for hitherto I have acted by the rule of former usages except 20 which I have sold at full price 9$. Of the rest I have been obligd to let the Subs whom I have fallen in with, take at the subscription price (8$) about 15; & the other 15 at wholesale, i.e. what I thought the wholesale prices, 7.25. Give directions and they shall be duly attended to by

Your M. L. Weems.

turn

I shall soon begin to send you regular returns of all my sales.

[1] For 'hot-press Bible published by John Thompson and Abraham Small at Philadelphia in 1798' see *Early Bibles of America*, Rev. John Wright, New York, 1894, LC.

[2] 'To the Public. Those who may have intimated a desire of subscribing to the Delaware Gazette . . . will now have an opportunity, by leaving their names with the following gentlemen: . . . Major Sorden, Milford . . .' *Delaware Gazette* (Wilmington), Feb. 22, 1797 *et seq.*, HU.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Dumfries Aug. 12. 1803

Dr Sir— . . . Since I saw you, I have been under the necessity of altering, somewhat, my plan formed while the Judge [1] was with us. In consequence of a too liberal credit to Purchasers of Mr. Carey's books, I fell in debt to that Gentleman, about 900$. For this sum, I hoped, at time of *our last arrangement* he wd have waited. But my hopes were in vain. He gave me a hint and oftner [*sic*] than once, — to be brief I had no way to carry off the debt, and therewith the *pain & inflamation of Dunning*, but by closing with his offer of 1250$ per annum, "*to run his family Bible with the Subscription for the Life of Washington.*" He has furnishd a *light* stage & I have thereto attached a pair of as *light footed active horses*. So that I *can* & *do* travel with considerable dispatch. However if you think proper to withdraw the dollar pr diem allowance granted me in Philada. I have no room to complain. But if you chuse to allow the Continuance of that premium, I do solemnly pledge my sacred honor, that at the *expiration* of my present year's contract and consequently *of my debt to Mr Carey* I will confine my exertions to your Service in this affair of Washington & whatever other saleable pieces we may embark in.

On Monday I shall be at Fairfax Court, where I hope to add to our list.

Yours respectfy

Best wishes to good Mr Clarke

You'll please to observe, that my year will be expir'd long before you can get the *whole of Washington out*, and I shall all that time be going on industriously with collections & remittances.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 55.

[*Dumfries?*] Aug. 24. 1803.

Dr Sir. . . . I am astonishd & grievd that you think it necessary to employ with me the language of remonstrance or of intreaty. Let me assure you that I never for a moment lose sight of your intrest.

[1] Judge Bushrod Washington.

Even now I am broiling on the red coals of torture on your account. *Even now!* I have so been for a fortnight — This day, a fortnight ago, I came to Alexand[a] and, to the utter blasting of my peace, found my boxes heaped up at Old Mr. Westcott's. The Dumfries Boats were all taken up with carrying stone from Aqui[1] to the *City*. I instantly took in part of a load (my carriage being already *half* laden) and hasten[d] down to Dumfries. The next morning, Witness Heaven! without going to see a most amiable & affectionate Wife who was about 20 miles off, I hurried back to Alexan[d] and took in a load, *two* of the *three* Monstrous trunks, and proceeded to Fairfax Court, where I sold about 50 Dol[s] which I sent you on Friday. From the same poor assortment I sold you on Monday & Tuesday Morn. 90$, and return[d] here last Night, hoping to find arriv[d] all my boxes that I might make up a choice assortment for the *District Court* which will sit in Northumberland 1[st] of September. To my extreme mortification the books are *not yet* come down, so that tis ten to one I shall have to go up after them. I have no doubt, I shall [*as*] soon as we can form the Line, commence an Action that shall equal all your reasonable expectations. For never Ichneumon [2] was more eager to demolish a nest of crocodile eggs than I am to demolish this pile of Books. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 55.

Dumf. Aug. 27. 1803.

D[r] Sir. . . . I am just about to set out for Northumberland District Court — (distant 100 Miles) my load about 1100[lb]. God give me good speed. On my way I shall drop Mr. Roote's [3] *Collection*. But, unfortunately, coming away without seeing you, I have come away without the list of his books, I mean *the price*. Furnish the list in your next. In my last I gave you a list of a few books which I am sure will sell well; to that list you may add 20 copies of Enticks Dictionary —

[1] Probably Aquia Creek, which is near Dumfries.

[2] Ichneumon — 'the common name of the North African representative of a number of small weasel-shaped mammals . . . Indian representatives . . . being known as mongooses.' Great raiders of nests for eggs of poultry, as well as killers of rats, snakes, etc. They frequent the banks of the Nile in Egypt. See *Encyclopedia Britannica*, lc.

[3] 'Thomas Reade Rootes, Attorney at Law, has removed to the town of Fredericksburg, and resides in the House belonging to his excellency, R. Brooke, esq. and intends Practising the Law in the county courts of Spotsylvania and Caroline, the Court of Hustings, the District Court

6 Gibson's Surveying,[1] two Moores Navigation,[2] and a few School Bibles — Some dream books, dreaming Dictionaries and above all, some Pilg. Progress. When I speak of Mr. Roots books you no doubt advert to some Elegant books furnish[d] me in May or June, to an order which I gave you. Viz. Ainsworth's Dictionary [3] 2 Vol[s]. Quarto — Gilliesses Greece,[4] Hugh Boyd [5] &c &c &c. I hope to [*do*] something during the *District Courts*, which I shall for two months to come, be engag[d] in — I wish you w[d] send a good many of a Neat edition of the *Principles of politeness*, and some "Book of Knowledge" [6] Aristotle's Master piece [7] is often ask[d]. for. What book is that? — Scotts lessons also. Send but this one box to Dumfries. Mark it for Dumfries, Mess[r] Grey will send it on for you.

I shall want a box (which I will order) at Staunton, tis bad policy to accumulate so many books at such an out of the way place as Dumfries[8]

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMFRIES, Aug. 28, 1803.

SIR. This moment I set out for the District Court of Northumberld.

I am griev[d] that you sh[d] allow your Mind to pore so incessantly and painfully on any business of yours wherein I am Commander-in-chief. Had I commenc'd but yesterday the Office of an Agent of yours, you might have reason to indulge Alarm, but you well know that neither

of Fredericksburg, and the Federal Court.' *Virginia Herald & Fredericksburg Advertiser*, May 9, 1795, HU. See also *The History of the City of Fredericksburg, Va.*, S. J. Quinn, 1908, p. 231, LC.

[1] *A Treatise of Practical Surveying*, Robert Gibson, New York, 1803, LC.

[2] *The New Practical Navigator*, John Hamilton Moore, London, 1800, LC.

[3] Latin dictionary by Robert Ainsworth, 1660–1743, LC.

[4] *The history of ancient Greece, its Colonies, and conquests; from the earliest accounts till the division of the Macedonian Empire in the East. Including the history of literature, philosophy, and the fine arts*, John Gillies, London, 1801, NYPL.

[5] *The Miscellaneous Works of Hugh Boyd*, London, 1800, LC.

[6] *The Book of Knowledge; Treating of the Wisdom of the Ancients. In Four Parts. I. . . . Opperations of the Signs and Planets . . . II. . . . Receipts in Physic and Surgery. III. . . . Art of Physiognomy and Palmistry . . . IV. The Farmer's Calendar . . .* Written by Ezra Pater A Jew Doctor. . . . Made English by W. Lilly . . . Philadelphia . . . H. & P. Rice . . . 1801. HSP.

[7] *Ad.* 'For Sale at this Office . . . Aristotle's Masterpiece . . .' *Bartgis's Republican Gazette* (Fredericktown, Md.), Jan. 21, 1803 *et seq.*, AAS.

[8] Concerning Dumfries' decadence see *Appendix XVIII.*

Sloth, Gambling, Dishonesty nor Intemperance on my part, have ever yet raised their Hydra heads to blast the blossoms of your hopes. In all cases where opportunity had been afforded, I have done well. I have eternally told you that it is my first Pride and Ambition to give you Content, and that I had much rather *do* than *write*. I have hitherto been unfortunate — the Peninsula business turn[d] out very much as I predicted. The delays of our books at Alexand[a], have added to our Misfortunes. But now that 2 thirds of our books are come to hand and about 1000[lb] pack[d] in excellent boxes for the Court sales, I trust I shall have a kind providence on my side.

Add some Gazetteers to the books already order'd. Send but the box (now & in my last order'd) to Alexand[a]. and to be sent on by the Mess[rs]. Grey.

Sincerely I believe that this Enterprize properly conducted will turn out greatly to your Advantage. I consider myself as not yet got under weigh. I believe that several of Denon's travels[1] & the Federalist[2] w[d] do well.

[*Unsigned.*]

L. & F. Vol. 55.

Richm[d] County. Sep. 10. 1803

D[r] Sir. On the 2[d] Inst I got to Northumberland Court. where on the same day I vended about $60
on the 3[d] — do do 55
on the 5th (the *4th* being Sunday) do 50
on the 6th — 65
on the 7th — 25
Today the 10th — 23
$278

This looks well. But I have bad news to tell you. While surrounded by a crowd — I was ask[d] to change a hundred Dollar note, on promise from the Applicant, to take a couple of Bibles. I gave him the Bibles &

[1] 'Denon's (Vivant) Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt, during the campaigns of Bonaparte in that country. Translated by Arthur Aikin, 2 vols. with plates, $5. N. York, 1803.' Listed in *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 87, LC.

[2] The well-known essays on the United States Constitution.

the Change (82$). But alas! If I were to be cursed eternally for it I cannot tell what is become of the 100$ note! I am not yet *entirely* out of hopes about it, but my fears make the heaviest scale.

This country is so much like the Eastern Shore, that I am afraid to send on your money untill I can get a little further up. I am on my way to another district Court at King & Queen Court House. Thursday the 15th is the day of Cession. I shall thence work on to the Fredericksbg District Court. With a good Assortment I have no doubt I cou'd do great things. But I am oblig[d] to preach very often to get the People together. I have preach[d] 4 times in the 8 days past. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 55.

HOBBS HOLE, Sep. 19. [*18*]03.

D[r] SIR. Thank God I've found my 100$ Note which I thought lost — my sales have been pretty good. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMFRIES. Sep. 24, 1803.

D[r] SIR. . . . I am often ask[d] for Plutarchs lives — Popes Works — Hervey's Meditations — Token for Children [1] — as to Pilg. Progress I am quite in a fever with you. I have begg[d] for that book as for my life & yet you will not send it. I coud have sold a great many, last trip. My books are all arriv[d]. Monday and Tuesday I purpose to spend in counting & packing & on Wednesday I set off for the Fredericksbg Dist. Court, thence to the Great Baptist Association, thence to the Red house District Court, &c *all* within 3 weeks — Write me *instantly* to *Fredericksbg* the list of prices of the books sent to Mr. Rootes.

Turn Turn

One of my Constant Bible Purchasers has consented to give me 80$ for 11, & I have consented to take it. Shall I do it again & again, in cases where I find or fear that nothing better can be done??

[1] *A Token for Children*, by Rev. James Janeway, Boston, 1771, LC.— *Ad.* 'Just Published, and to be sold by C. Bingham . . . a new edition of that excellent little Book, entitled, A Token for Children . . . By the Rev. James Janeway. With an Appendix, containing two Lives never before published in said work.' *Democrat* (Boston), Aug. 18, 1804, BA.

[To C. P. Wayne] *Dreer Col. HSP.*

Lancaster. Sep. 26. 1803

Dr Sir, Three hours ago I sent you $370. Having occasion to write, and supposing that your Olfactories are always best regald with letters perfumd with money I now send you — $20.

The People cant bear the unbound books, — Oat's [1] binding ravishes every eye & heart. Im glad they don't like the unbound. You make 10 cents on every Vol. bound. Now as your boxes wd not sell here for a cent apiece I think it advisable to return the box that's empty. The Waggoner I suppose will charge but half price. And in the box I send you a great deal of waste paper & as follows

9 Setts — boards — *coarse*	54
1 of 1st Vol. do — do	3.
5 of 1st Vol. *Best sort*	15.
	72

7 of 1st Vol. gilt — & 1 of 2d Vol. plain which was put up, thro' *mistake* for a copy *gilt* 2 Vols. 8 and two of 2d vol. gilt *Hyde* which I took of Millegan & did not sell. 8—2 Vols.

24 bds @ 3	72
4 gilt @ 4	16
	$88

The note sent was 100$ — No 1528 date March 21, 1804 Smith-Fox The draft was on the Bank of Penna. Do everything to keep me in blast. Don't let me see *Hyde*. Tell me, at *York*, what you have *done*. . . .

[To Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 55.*

Fredericksbg. Sep. 29, 1803

Dr. Sir:

On the 19 — from Hobbs hole — sent $200
On the 24 Paid Mr. Brude 200
Now — to the mercy of the mail — commit 50
Hope in one week to remit something pretty acceptable.

Am often askd for Gills exposition
Bailys, Johnson's, & Sheridans Dictionaries wd do well

[1] 'Oat Joseph, bookbinder 24 Moravian Alley' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1804, LC.

On the first day of Decemb, I start for the wealthy Carolinas. Shall coast it along the rich Sea Board.

You will observe that I send you but 50$. I wrote it first 100, but on examining my pocket I find but 50! There is a cloud hangs over this affair. I hope on my return to Dumfries I shall dispel it.

L. & F. Vol. 55.
DUMF. Octob. 4th, 1803

SIR On Thursday 29 ulto. Sent you from Fredericksbg. $50
Today I give Mr. Brundige 50

There was no loss of 50$. 'Twas a mistake, the development of which was both tedious and unprofitable.

On Thursday I got to Fredericksbg. and sold as follows

Mr. Rootes' Miscellan. Col.	$ 96.83
D° 1 Coke on Lyttleton	17.00
	113.83

Of this, have not receiv[d] one cent, but shall receive the whole on Monday the 20

Sam C. Gordon, Merch bot. 10	$ 80.
Quarto Bible — the 11th gratis	
1 Wilberforce — 175	1.75
1 Saints rest — 100	1.00
1 Paley — 200	2.00
1 know. Nature — 50	.50
1 Lendrum — 200	2.00
1 Robertson's Am. — 400	4.00
1 Paul & Virg. — 50 ..... got but	46
	$ 91.71
Thus have I sold but	113.83
since the 29th.....	$205.54

The Grand Races will commence in Fredericksbg on the 10th Inst, when I hope to give you a good account.

In my next, shall sketch out my plan of operation for the winter, etc. etc.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMFRIES. Nov. 1st, 1803

SIR. For 14 days past I have been panting like a run stag and yet, thro' the confounded ebb of money, have collected but 120$. Mr. Brundige this hour took possession of it. For particulars shall refer you to my next. Tomorrow I push off to the Court of King George — thence to that of Caroline, etc. etc.

N.B. I have about 150$ in good hands for you. Lawyer Roote, of Fredericksburg, a Prime Lawyer & Rich Gentleman, has not yet paid for the elegant books I delivered him. He promis[d] to pay in 10 days but, being applied to, he assured me that the sole obstacle was the Yellow fever in Alexandria in the bank of which all his fees were unluckily deposited. He said you sh[d] have it soon. Every body tells me "*it is safe*"

There is a great deficit in the tale of Almanacs. How w[d] these two Pamphlets answer?

The Controversy of Jefferson and Hammond — and Paines letter to Washington with Cobbett's defence? [1]

Experience has taught me that if I had a full collection I could vend an immensity.

Braken's farriery
Carters Cookery [2]
Methodist Hymns
Cheap edition of Pilg. Progress
& Holy War
Doddridge's rise & progress
Newtons Hymns & etc. [3]

[1] No such issues by Carey found.

[2] *The Frugal Housewife: or, Complete Woman Cook*, by Susannah Carter of Clerkenwell, London, Philadelphia, James Carey, 1796, AAS. No edition by Mathew Carey found, though his *Catalogue* for 1818 lists a 'Phil. 1802' edition. This may, of course, be simply a later edition by his brother James.

[3] *Olney Hymns, In Three Books:* . . . By the Rev. John Newton, London. . . . Burlington: Printed by Isaac Neale, M,DCC,XCV, HSP. There is a Philadelphia edition listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMF. Nov. 12, 1803

Dr. SIR On Wednesday seven night I started for King George C. house distant 45 miles. In 3 days I vended about 70$. After that, I marchd to Caroline Court where I vended in 3 days about 80$

On the 1st Inst. I paid Mr. B. $120
Today the 12 I paid unto Do 150

Experience, the best of teachers, Daily experience teaches me that with a proper assortment I could make immense sales for you. I say "a proper assortment" in contradistinction of that very partial collection now in my hands. Every day, at these crowded Courts, brings applicants for a thousand books which alass I have not. But for my soul I know not how to advise. Two horses will not serve to carry that supply of miscellanies which I could point out as essential to success. And whether the Bibles alone, or, which is almost tantamount, with our present imperfect collection, will answer our hopes and wishes is problematical. My opinion, however, is that you shd make me up 3 or 4 packages of about 600$ each; and, *observe, of such books* as *I* shall order! — One package to Richmond — one to Wilmington or Roanoke — a 3d to Wilmington on the river that joins the Sea near cape Fear. Vid. your Am. Atlass. and the 4th to Charleston South Caroline. If you approve of this plan which to me seems marked with [*the*] broad seal of wisdom, write instantly and I will send you a list of such books as I know I shall be able to demolish for you very soon and certainly

I owe Jacob Johnson 25 prayer books of 12½ cents cost. I have plenty but the yellow fever in Alexanda would not allow me to send to Philada. And I am too busy now to go off to Alexanda on such a trifling errand. I believe I owe a few to Mr. Hogan.[1] I wish you wd be so good as to furnish them instantly on my account.

Yours respectfy.

[1] 'Hogan David, printer &c. 51 S Third' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1803, LC. His relations with Carey began as early as 1799, when on Feb. 19th he signed for the receipt of various books from Mr. Carey's Warehouse. See *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 13: 4683, AAS. May 31, 1800: "Mr. Mathew Carey To D. Hogan Dr. To printing 250 copies of "An Inaugural Dissertation on Perspiration" *Ibid.*, Vol. 14: 5135. Other references during the following years show Hogan as printer, seller of books and stationery, and as exchanging books with Carey.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMFRIES, Nov. 18, 1803

SIR Day before yesterday I ran down to Stafford Court. My sales were but la la. I pay Mr. B $30. On the 13 I p^d him 150.

I now turn aside, for 10 days, to pay a debt of fraternal affection. My Brother has been very ill. He has sent for me to come and see him. Why in his last moments sh^d he weep to think his Brother has forgotten him? Roots has not yet p^d me. But it is good and shall soon be forthcoming.

I wrote to you to know whether it be your wish that I sh^d now turn my whole attention to the Bible, or take along with it, a good miscellaneous accompaniment. I also pointed out a Southern trip of the coasting sort, thru the wealthy counties and towns binding and bordering on the Atlantic. I also mentioned Richmond, Wilmington, *Roanoke*, *Wilmington more south*, and Charleston, as places of depot for as many boxes of books. Let me know instantly that I may send you the invoice of such books as I know will suit the market. If you fear that the season may fail us, make up for each of those places a box of 500$ and of the following

Johnson's Dicty.
Bailey's d°
Watkins d°
Sheridan's d°
Perry's d°
Enticks d°
Gibson Surveying
Moores Navigation
Euclid's Elements
Scott's Lessons
Columb. Orator
Children of the Abbey
Charlotte Temple
Sundry *best* Novels
Milton's Paradise Lost
Young's Night thoughts
Thompson Seasons
Pilgrims Progress
Bunyans Holy War
Jefferson's Notes
Rippon's Hymns
New Methodist d°
Newton d°
Watts Psalms & Hymns
Russels 7 Sermons
Whitfields Sermons
Morse Geograp. abridg^d.
Morse — 2 Vols.
Morse Am. Gazetteer
Morse Universal Gazetteer
Art of Speaking
Pleasing Instructor

Broad Grins [1] Jesters
Song books. Plutarch
Josephus Anacharsis
Buchan's Domestic Medicine
Zoonomia, Wilson's history of the Egyptian Expedition [2]
Vicar of Wakefield. in each box 2 doz. spellg. books — as many Columbian Primers.

above all the young Clerk's Magazine Constitution of U. States Quincey, Lexicon, Booths Reign of Grace your London Edition of Harvey's Meditations. Blair's Lectures Fordyce Sermons to young Ladies. Preachers Pocket Bible. Robinson Crusoe. History of the Devil. Arabian Nights. In short if you wish me to act as above, send as above, and in each box a quire of catalogues, alphabettically drawn up, and some Bible Subscription papers if you have them. Improve as you like.

What shall I wholesale your Columbian Spelling books at?

L. & F. Vol. 55.
DUMF. Dec. 6, 1803

SIR Yours of the 25th ulto. came to hand yesterday. Agreably to your wishes I am busily employ[d] in packing your books. I find both Wind and Tide are still against me on every tack. From *Goldsmith's Animated Nature* I counted to clear 2500$! But by mismanagement, by crediting to any and to every body, your miscellaneous millions subsequently shipped I sunk my 2500 and in a vortex too that drew down 1500 more!! From this our last arrangement I expected to have had a fair run into the port of *freedom at least;* but a head flow it seems has taken me all aback again. However, with a light heart I am bracing forward to the faithless breeze as well as I can, and hoping for better times. I am very far from wishing to confine you to your contract especially as you think its operation will prove injurious to you. But it should be remembered that it was a very solemn one; that it was a long

[1] Probably an earlier edition of *Broad Grins*, by George Colman, (the younger,) . . . Worcester (Mass.) Printed by Isaiah Thomas, jun. . . . January, 1804, LC.

[2] 'Wilson's (Sir Robert) Journal of the British Expedition to Egypt, with a Sketch of the present state of that Country and its means of defence, 8vo. Philad.' is listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC. The LC. has the fourth edition, London, 1803.

time before I could subscribe to it, for fear of the menacing risks and forfeitures, and that I really am (yourself being Judge) considerably a Loser in this affair.

I have been in your service but a trifle over 5 months @ $1250 pr A. Which for even numbers sake we will call	500.00$
My diurnal allowance from Mr. Wayne of $1 per day, in 5 months, makes	150.00$
The diet of an extra horse, to say nothing of his cost, in 5 months, makes *at least*	70.00$
My profits on the "Life of Washington" for 8 months preceeding our connexion, were (at the rate of $1.50 on each of 1400 subscriptions) 2100$ — But in the last 5 months, not 400$ An odds against me of 1700$!!!. But I'll not say 1700, nor 1000, nor 500, nor 250, but only 180.	180.00
	400.00

Besides to cooperate with you, in this enterprise, which I fondly hop^{d} w^{d}, at length, set me at quits with the world, I actually sold for 25$ a carriage and harness which about 18 or 15 months before had cost me 120$.

Now I declare solemnly to God that I do not wish you to continue me any longer in your service, in this business. All I ask is that you w^{d} ask your own bosom whether I have not been rather hardly dealt with in this unfortunate undertaking, and whether you yourself do not feel that some little compensation should be made for the many disappointments, expenditures, and sacrifices incurred by an Honest and Laborious Friend who after eight years in your service is about to quit it without a Shilling.

Your books shall all be packed in 3 days. The first boat for Alexandria shall take them up. I know that you have too much Justice and Generosity to revert an indignant eye to the *Old Goldsmith Days*. If, in that affair, you were for some time a *sufferer* I have been, ever since, a slave: — to this day I haven't recovered its sad and rueful consequences. Tho' just returned from my brothers, I have some money which I shall pay to Mr. B.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMFRIES, Dec. 7, 1803

SIR. In my last, of yesterday, I told you that tho' just returned from my Brothers I got a little money for you. The very day after my return, by a force[d] march I reach[d] the vicinity of Fauquier Court house where, Quarterly Court being in session, I hoped to do something, but in consequence of rain, etc. etc. I got but to the tune of 40$ which I now pay unto Mr. Brundige. I have been assorting, marking and packing your books, but before I can finish shall be obliged to *hurry down* to Fredericksbg for 4 trunks of Bibles, etc. etc. which, as an advance guard, I had some time ago during the good roads push[d] on there to be in readiness for my intended trip to the South. In an hour I start for Fredericksbg where I hope to get some money from Roots. You cannot but recollect that soon as I had ratified our last unfortunate contract I told you that the Almanacs which Mr. Adams had been printing for me, sh[d] be surrender'd to you and thrown into the common current of books on sale for you. This surrender was the natural and necessary consequence of a promise on my part to sell no books on my own account. You agreed to it, & the Almanacs were sent on, but, as I told you in a former letter, not in the quantity (5000) I expected. Mr. Adams will tell you that our contract was, to the best of my recollection, for 5000. But there have been sent only as follows —

1 Trunk — carefully counted	749
1 D[o] of same size and therefore suppos'd (for it was not counted) to contain	749
1 Large Box — twice counted	2333
	3831

What have been vended, wholesale, have been vended *constantly* at $\frac{50}{1000}$ per Dozen. There remain on hand between 1000 & 1500. As winter sets in, it may throw obstacles or delays in the way of their speedy return to Philad[a]. I think it adviseable not to pack the Almanacs, *for fear of accident.* I am willing to account for the whole, (taking on my *own risk* the unsold) at $\frac{50}{1000}$ per doz.

I shall leave your books with Mr. Brundige to be sent instantly (soon as packed) to Messrs. Gray of Alexand[a] to be forwarded to you. Or, I shall follow any other directions you may think proper to give.

I will not be possitive, but tis very possible I shall lose much more than you are aware of, and very much more than, I know, you w^d like that I sh^d lose. I have greatly offended the Mount Vernon Family.

L. & F. Vol. 55.
DUMF. Dec. 15, [*18*]03

SIR: In my last I inform^d you of an intended trip to Fredericksburg for some trunks of Books that had been carried thither. I went. I got the Books. I got Root's money, and gave it to Mr. Brundige. This hour I have finish^d collectg. sorting, packing, inscribing, etc. etc. your Books.

	$
The returns in Books upwards of	2000
In cash, exclusive of Rootes	1600
In d^o from Rootes	100
Still due in good	100

Had I been properly supplied I sh^d have made an handsome turn out for you. But where was the use of putting a catalogue into the hands of wealthy looking . . . [*illegible*] crowding about me at Courthouse Races, etc. etc.? Disappointment and chagrin were always expected and always found. "Have you Rollin"? inquires one — "No Sir, I had but one copy and that's sold." "Have you the Spectator"? "No Sir, that also is sold." "Well I see Old Plutarch here on the list. I hope you have him." "No Sir, I have parted with him also" "What the Devil! All sold"? "Yes." "Josephus, too"? "Yes." "Anacharsis is not perhaps" Yes Sir, *he is off* too. "Well here's your catalogue, for I am sure tis not worth my while to be looking over it!! Thus you see that with one copy apiece of all the favorite Writers, I am expected to do more than Man or Angel can. My loss is great. And you well know that had it been proposed to concur with you for $5\frac{1}{2}$ months only, I sh^d never have heard it. In the course of next week a boat will be going to Alexand^a, by w^h they shall be sent. I have counted all the Alm^cs they amount to 1785 w^h are more than I can safely take at $\frac{50}{100}$.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMFRIES. Dec. 23, 1803

SIR. Yours of the 12th came not to view till yesterday. I was at Culpepper Court, whither, after packing your books, I went at the head of a small detachment of my own.

I shall recommence our business, but with much lowness of spirits — merely because I fear you will not enable me to prosecute it with that splendid success which suits my pride and my wishes to please. You give me a handsome salary for which I am desirous to make as handsome a return; but this, as I have ever foreseen and all along told you, is not to be done by an *imperfect and partial selection*. I know, and with grief have observ[d], that you are not pleas'd at my speaking in this way of the assortment. But it is no slander. You, on glancing an eye over the catalogue on which are seen the splendid names of Anarchasis, Robertson,[1] Josephus, etc. etc. etc. to the tune of 2 or 3000$, are easily led into the opinion that the collection is at all points complete and just such as it ought to be. But I am He who leads this squadron to the charge, and therefore best can tell whether it be indeed prepared to meet every assailant. And I feel it my duty to assure you again, as I often have in times past, that I am constrained to send away with full purses, at least two thirds of all those who apply to me for books. What Wonder? What History of fame have I. What single Medical Author? I declare solemnly, and you ought to pay some regard to my opinion (for you see what my advice to you about the Bible, an advice of two years, has atchiev[d] for you) that I can put you in a way to vend for 10,000 to 15,000$ pr An. But to the point in hand — I have given you several lists of saleable books. You have no doubt taken good care of them. To those be pleas[d] to add. Smiths Wealth of Nations. New York Medical Repository. Buchan's Family Physician. Good assortment of school books, particularly Murray's Grammar Key, etc. Broad Grins. Principles of Politeness. Shakespeare. Wilson's Expedition to Egypt. Hugh Trevor, Caleb Williams,[2] Armenian Skeleton,[3] Fair

[1] Probably an earlier edition of *The history of America*, by William Robertson . . . 1st American edition, Philadelphia, Published by Johnson & Warner: William Greer, printer, 1812, LC.

[2] *Adventures of Caleb Williams* [a novel] by William Godwin.

[3] *Ad.* 'Arminian Skeleton. Subscriptions are received at the Bookstore of S. Kollock, Elizabeth Town, for a book entitled The Skele-

American,[1] Zion's traveller or the Soul's Progress to Heaven.[2] Pilg. Progress. Holy War. Dictionaries in abundance, Universal Gazetteers.

I will write very fully by and by.

I shall do nothing till after Christmass, then I shall take the field, but not with spirit as if well armed.

Give me the pleasure to do great things for you.

L. & F. Vol. 55.

DUMF. Dec. 28, 1803

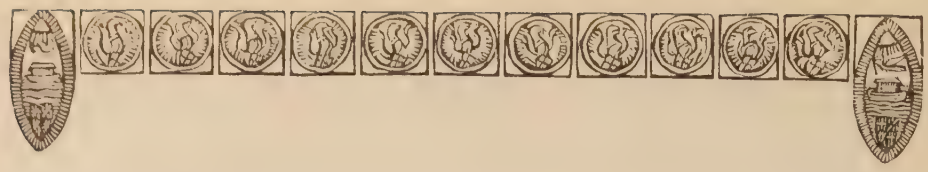
SIR, This is to request that you will suspend all preparations for a *recommencement* of our business untill you further hear from Me. which will, I think, be in a very few days.

Reasons shall then be stated.

tons; or, the Arminian Anatomized, and the Carnal Preacher Dissected. In Two Parts. Part I. The Arminian, or doctrine of Universal Charity pursued, taken, examined, tried, condemned, executed and anatomized. Part II. — The Carnal Preacher Dissected, with comments on several direct passages of Scripture, in a series of letters, written at various times, to friends in the country. . . . December 17, 1804.' *New Jersey Journal*, Feb. 12, 1805, HU.

[1] *The fair American: a comic opera, in three acts;* . . . by F. Pilon [*1750–1788*], London, 1785, LC. Played at the John Street Theatre, New York, November 9, 1789.

[2] *Zion's Traveller: or, the Soul's Progress to Heaven: In the several steps whereby it ascends from deep distress and misery, to the height of triumph and glory.* By Mr. William Crawford Minister of the Gospel at Wiltown . . . Edinburgh: printed by Mr. James Davidson and Company . . . M.DCC.XXIX. BPL.



Avec beaucoup d'imagination il était le moins réflechi, le moins philosophe des hommes. — ANATOLE FRANCE.

L. & F. Vol. 60.

DUMFRIES, Jan^{y}. 12, 1804.

SIR. As this will perhaps be my last, it sh^{d} be both written and read with candour. In May 1803 I was in Philad^{a} getting Sub^{s}. for M^{r} Wayne's edition of the Life of Washington — I was going on at a rate that netted me from 10 to 15 Dol^{s} per day. You honor'd me with an invitation to cooperate with you in the distribution of your Bibles. I replied that over and above my pr Cent on that very voluminous & popular work, I had an allowance of 1$ per day, which, by cooperating with you, I sh^{d} forfeit. You responded, that, "I coud very well run your business, with M^{r} Wayne's" — In short, I consented to your proposal. Soon as M^{r} W. then in Boston, return^{d} to Philad^{a} he was met by a letter from me, informing him of the whole transaction. He reproach^{d} me with much acrimony. I urg^{d} the Beggar's plea, my necessities, that I owd you money, that you wanted it, that, in fact, I had no other way of paying you — To my astonishment he let the matter pass — he did not supersede me. To comply with your solicitations, I made several very serious sacrifices. M^{r} Wayne allow^{d} me 1$ per day — This I gave up — a loss which in $5\frac{1}{2}$ months comes to $165

The purchase of an extra horse — say *nothing!* But his feed for $5\frac{1}{2}$ months, you yourself will allow to be *at least* 80

This 4 wheel^{d} carriage, at one ferry (Kent Island) cost me $7.50. Surely then in $5\frac{1}{2}$ months, in this country so full of rivers, you will agree it has cost 10

To join with you I sold for $25, a carriage and harness which cost me 125, I had used it but 12 months, It sh^{d} certainly be apprais^{d} at a moiety of its prime cost $62.50, which makes 37.50

Mr. W. gives me 10 pr cent on the Life of Washington, which @ $15

pr copy *boards*, brings me 1.50 — @ 20$ in calf & gilt, brings me 2$. In 5½ months next preceding our confederacy I got 900 Subs. which make me 1800$. In 5½ months since that connexion, I have got but 250 Subscribers, wh @ 2$ pr subscription, make me but 500$. Now 500 from 1800, and there remain 1300 Dols. which I have lost, but in lieu of 1300 say only . . . 300. Thus, on the most *moderate computation*, I have sacrificed — $592.50.

My Revenue from you in 5½ months, about 572.

I was induced to embark in this business, entirely with a view to wipe off all our old scores. For this *one good*, I was willing to incur its *many Evils*. And this one good it certainly wd have produced, had it been suffer[d] to run on to its stipulated period. But by thus breaking off before the contract is half ended, you bring upon me many heavy penalties both of Loss and Cost, without granting me one half of those slender benefits which on every principle both of Honor & Humanity, I had a right to expect. This, Mr Carey, from you, I little expected; and still less did I expect that to such unmerited injuries, you wd have added the still greater, of misrepresentation and Censure. In your letters you seem to make out that by our contract, I was, in a manner, to lose sight of Wayne & Washington altogether. I was to treat them as things merely "*incidental.*" But I call God to witness that your argument persuasive to this Confederacy, was the facility with which, to use your own words, "*I coud run your business & Mr. Waynes together*," and so far from falling short of my duty to you, the same Omniscient Being can attest that in many instances I have *supererrogated*. But had I no other argument, the dreadful falling off in my subscription list is in lieu of the thousand proofs, that I did nothing for Mr. Wayne. No, Mr Carey, the true cause of failure in this enterprize, is to be ascrib[d] and by me will forever be ascrib[d] to your unwillingness or inability to furnish me a competent assortment. Certainly I was the person to know whether or not your supplies were adequate to the reimbursement of a 1250$ salary, and as I constantly felt, so I as constantly inform[d] you that they *were not*. And little did I look that you wd have answer[d] such honest, such necessary communications with unphilosophical quarrelling. Most unphilosophic, because the reiterated ascriptions of *Handsome*, *Elegant* &c, to your Assortment, insensibly led you to think it such, while I was

hourly feeling its utter insufficiency to answer one *application* in ten. To say that ten days on the Peninsula, w^d^ have sufficed to predict what was to be done, is, in fact to say that you have not duly consider'd the Number, Extent, &^c^. &^c^. of the Counties constituting that large neck of land — To chide me for not remittg daily advice of sales, is to chide me for not giving you daily the trouble to overlook long inventories, and to compare, article by article, the *books furnished* with those sold. The readier way, to *my apprehension*, was, to tell you, *at once*, what *was wanted*, this I did. You complain that I sh^d^ talk of *returning* the *unsold Almanacs;* but such complaints were only to show that of all Mother Eve's Children, you love none like yourself. However to take away from you every shadow of complaint, that I have thrown, "*as waste paper on your hands, 70 Doz. of valuable Almanacs,*" I am content, late as it is in the season, to [*take?*] them all on myself in this way. Of the 38,00, and *some odd*, sent me, I have sold somewhat more than 20,00 at $\frac{50}{100}$ universally pr doz. and, generally, at 6/100 for retail. Of these retails, I made no entries, but they cou'd not, as you may suppose, be very numerous, and sometimes I was oblig^d^ to sacrifice an Almanac to the cravingness of your *Book Buyers*. But this was not often. I am content, I say, if you be satisfied with $\frac{50}{100}$ per doz *on all* (upwards of *160 Doz*) *sold*, to take the rest (upwards of 1700) at my own risk, and at whatever John Adams charges me for them. Thus you get about one hundred pr cent *on all sold*, and none to lye on your hands. This day, to M^r^ Brundige, I have sold 4 Doz at $\frac{25}{100}$ pr doz. But to return to my complaints against *you*. "*But if, Mr Weems, you complain of injury from the interruption of this business, why do you not revive it, you have my leave?*" To this, M^r^ Carey, I answer that it is now no longer in my power. On receipt of your letter informing that, "*for reasons irresistibly conclusive*" you had *determind to quit* the Confederacy, I wrote to M^r^ Wayne, stating that we had shaken hands, and that I was willing to give him my whole exertions, on condition he w^d^ revive the *diurnal allowance, forfeited by my Junction with you*. He replied in terms w^h^ led me to apprehend he expected my responsibility for Broken Setts. Dreading so great an evil, I determin'd to quit him, and instantly wrote to you my willingness to recommence with you, and honestly pointing to the cause of past miscarriage — "*the very incompetent assortment.*" To this

you gave me an angry letter, questioning my capacity, censuring my conduct, ridiculing the idea of hiring me to go about the country selling *such & such books*, and concluding with telling me, that — "however you had no objection, to combine 6 or 3 months longer." On the very day that this very unjust & insulting letter arrived, I got from Judge Washington a billet assuring [*me*] that he w^d^ undertake for a revival of my diurnal allowance, and an exoneration from all drawbacks of broken copies. On this collision of things, my reasonings were as follow, — M^r^ Carey's assortment is, as I have *reassured him*, infinitely insufficient to fatten his wishes or to feed my Pride, but still he will [*not?*] have *it otherwise*. [*If*] Even in *summer* weather & good roads, when I cou^d^ carry 1200 lb. of this poor collection, I disappointed him, what will he think & feel from my miserable remittances, now that wintry roads will not allow me to carry more than 700 w^t^. I came therefore to a resolution to quit, since I coud not please nor profit you; for God is my Judge that to get my salary, is not *alone*, enough for me. I wish to bring satisfaction & wealth to my Employer. You see therefore, that you have driven me away. You w^d^ not give me the Assortment I wanted, and to tell me, (if not in words, in *meaning*) M. W. you owe me for little publications &c. &c. 2, 3, or 400$, "*tho I am not sanguine in hope, yet you may go on 3 months longer to quit that score*," This Citizen Carey, I can never submit to. Ergo we quit . . . soon as I possibly can you shall have what I still owe you. I am an apprentice under preparation and hope for "yon Grand Lodge that's far awa." If God spare my life & health, I will not wrong you one cent. You have put me to some loss & expense, as above; if you restitute, *well* — if not I look for blessing on my *family*, to him who feeds the sparrows. — I set out this hour with your carriage & my Almanacs.[1] If you act as Mat. Carey you will not perhaps be a Loser —

I go to Charleston, S. Carolina — whence I shall write to you relative to some Bibles *perhaps*, and my Maids & Bachelors Friend.[2]

[1] Possibly Carey's *Franklin*, more probably Weems' *Washington Almanac*. (*Bibliography, titles 174, 176.*)

[2] *Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant* (*No. 2*). (*Bibliography, title 171.*)

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Warrenton. Jan^{y}. 23. 1804.

D^{r}. Sir I send you — 100.....100 Dol

I am just now got off the old Tract — God give me good speed on the new . . .

I am hastening with furious expedition for Charleston to the *Great Races*.

Dreer Col. HSP.

Fayette ville. Jany. 28, 1804.

Sir. . . . I came to this town, 11 Oclock this morning, — found that a M^{r} M^{c} Rae (Post Master) [1] had obtain^{d} 15 sub^{s}. This dumbfounded me somewhat — but, rallying, I fell to work, and greatly to my surprise, obtain'd 22 more. M^{r} Grove,[2] (member of Congress, last session) says I may obtain a *vast many more*, if I can but attend at the Superior Court here 23 of April . . .

In a few hours I start (with letters) for George Town — thence to Charleston &^{c}. &^{c}. &^{c}. Observe — nothing, nothing will do with either Fed^{s} or Dem^{s} but Calf binding —

Take your steps accordingly. You need not Think, nor even *Dream* of or about me, what can be done, will be done by

M. L. Weems.

NB. I intended to start (as I inform^{d} you) on Horseback — But Judge Washington advis^{d} me to take a solo — However, having no solo, I have taken (as I told you *in a former letter I intended to do*) a light carriage with a Driver to vend some little Books while I sh^{d} be (for my *own sake*) industriously employ^{d} in getting Sub^{s} to Washington

. . . Gen^{l} Marshall says that you ought by *no means* to send out the 1st Vol. unaccompanied by the 2^{d}. The People will murmur very dangerously

[1] Duncan McRae, postmaster, Fayetteville, N. C., Apr. 1, 1798 (first return) — 1820 + See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 196–197, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C. See also *Addenda*.

[2] William Barry Grove, member of Congress, House of Representatives, from North Carolina, Dec. 7, 1801, to Jan. 6, 1803. See *Journal of the House of Representatives of the United States for the 7th and 8th Congress*, Washington, D. C., 1826, pp. 30, 259, LC. See also *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, edited by William Henry Hoyt, A.M., Raleigh, 1914, Vol. I, pp. 39, 45, 76, Vol. II, p. 4, LC.

to your Interest — Take notice, Nobody will subscribe for the work in *boards*. Great attention must be paid to have the same ornamenting &c &c. Mr Corchran,[1] an Excellent Binder of your City, offerd to bind them for me in the *best calf* plain & letter'd for 50/100 . . .

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 60.

Wilmington, N. C. Feb. 4, 1804.

Sir. Inclosd I send you . . . 50$

From Petersburg I informd you of the readiness of your books to be shippd from Dumf. to Alexandra. to care of Messs. Grays, Booksellers. I also informd, that, rather than give you any cause for complaint that 1700 or 1800 Almanacs were left as waste paper on your hands, I had embarkd them on your little stage to vend or not vend as time and chance might order, and at *prime cost risk*. I mean at my own risk, allowing you for them, sold or unsold, your prime cost charge. This, (the lateness of the season consider'd) *appeared* to me *right & reasonable*, "si quid novisti rectius candidus imperti si non his utere mecam." Some of them I have sold at 25/100 pr Doz, some much higher and some I have given away. But still 2 or 300 lie on hand. As I have your little stage with me (having parted with my own for sa[*ke?*] of our late broken voyage), I shall be willing that [*Mrs.?*] Weem's brother, who drives me, shall try to vend some Bibles for you. Expectg you will be as friendly as possible in the allowance made me, I shall say nothing on that head — send to Charleston one Doz. & one half of your *last* (3d) edition — send *immediately*. Your letter will inform to *whose care*. I left in your store a little box of books that opens in a curious way, in the middle — please to send that box — also my 4 or 500 Hymen's recruitg Serjeant No. 2, I mean the "*Nest of Love.*" [2] In these warm latitudes there is a great Call for both Nos But the 1st is unfortunately run out. After vending the 18 Bibles order'd above, I shall write for more.

You desired to know what I was to give Mr Painter for your Stage. I answer 106$ & 32$ for the harness for the two horses. If he say otherwise he is not the Man I took him for.

[*Unsigned.*]

[1] 'Cochran Hugh, book-binder 108 Sassafras,' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1804, lc.

[2] The title of the frontispiece by Tanner.

L. & F. Vol. 60.

Geo Town S C Feby 11 1804.

Sir.

From Adington I sent you 50
Now I send you 40

Many of my almanacs are still on hand, to the tune of 150 — I said that my young Brother-in-Law who rides with me shall want some Books for you — I also said that you might do well by sending 18 i.e. two Boxes of last edit of Bibles to Charleston.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Geo Town Feb. 15. 1804.

Sir — . . . As *none* of my Subs. w^d *give a fig for a book in boards*, they have, *almost to a man*, order'd them to be neatly bound in *Calf*. This will require, on the part of the Binders, a great deal of care to have the Pasteboards all of the *same dimensions* the bands & filletting most *nicely equi-distant*, and the ornamentings *exactly alike*. — This is your *first undertaking*, perhaps, in the *book* line; to give entire satisfaction, (especially in such a work, "*The Life of Washington*") may draw after it consequences NOT EASILY CONCEIVABLE. Your contract was to give me 1 copy for 10 in *boards*. Soon as the Subs. began to insist on having their *books in Calf* I added, to the "*conditions*" the article of *binding in calf*, neat & letter^d @ 75/100 — gilt & letter^d 100 pr vol. As I counted on getting the former, by the *large quantity*, @ 50/100 and the latter, for the same reason, at 75 pr Vol, the Nett proceeds, 25/100 pr vol, I have always plac^d to the credit of N° 1. However as you will have some trouble in this matter, 'tis but right & reasonable that some compensation sh^d be made you; what that compensation shall or sh^d be can hardly be adjusted by persons 700 miles apart. Nor indeed need it be, for I believe, that, according to Judge Washingtons opinion and report, you are capable of everything *Just & Right*.

But please to observe that the books must be all *bound in Calf*. Mr. Corchoran, Book binder, made very reasonable propositions to me, and as he bears the character of being a very Honest Man, it must be worth your while to see him. . . .

turn

As *General Marshall told me* that both Himself and Judge Washington were decidedly of opinion, that the 1st Vol, having not a word about Washington in it, shd not appear without the 2d, I have taken the liberty to inform these Southern Solicitors that they may expect the 1 & 2d. Vols in May or June. I hope to add 100 names to your list in this place . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON. Feb. 29th!!! [*18*]04.

SIR. . . . Why will you fall off in the quality of the paper? *All, All* depends on the *eclat* of *this first impression* . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

SAVANNAH. March 17. 1804.

SIR. . . . As I am a Vice Roy of yours I shall expect your *Imperial Sanction* of all my Vicarious acts; E.G. If I shd take a bad note or a bad Dollar, I shall look to your Majesty to make it *good*. There is something so perfectly equitable in this that I shall look to see it sign'd and countersign'd in your next. My next will contain the ballance of *names* & *monies* on hand. S. Carolina & Georgia will I trust average nearly *1000 each* —

Dreer Col. HSP.

SAVANNAH. April 5th 1804.

SIR. You talk of undertaking some Heavy Publication to distribute with Washington. What think you of the Celebrated Dr. Isaac Barrows sermons? Their intrinsic merit which is very uncommon, and the very high encomiums passd on them by the Greatest Critics, both of Bar & Pulpit, will ensure to the Subscription a noble patronage. Young Lord Lyttleton informs us that the Great Chatham studied them in preference to Cicero's Orations, "*as a fund of the most nervous diction he had ever met with*" Divines & Lawyers throughout the States wd subscribe. Mr. Dissasure[1] a noted Lawyer of Charleston, to whom

[1] Hon. Henry Wm. De Saussure, 1763–1839, for 29 years one of the Chancellors of South Carolina, and for 25 years presiding judge of the court of appeals. From an inscription on a monument in the Presbyterian Churchyard, Columbia, S. C. See *Our Whole Country*, Barber & Howe, Vol. I, p. 715, LC.

Judge Washington gave me a letter, promises *great things*, as also does the Bishop elect,[1] & all the clergy of that flourishing Metropolis. I w^d advise you to consult the Philadelphia Divines, the Bishop at their Head.[2] By omitting his treatise on the Pope's supremacy, &c &c you may pretty conveniently put Barrow in 3 Vols. 8° — All in Elegant Calf. . . .

Savannah alone, you see, has furnished 240 sub^s.

Dreer Col. HSP.

AUGUSTA. 12 Ap. 1804

SIR. . . . Now to your letter. You say "*the first Vol. I shall certainly publish the beginning of May. I shall expect your attention to the delivery at that time.*" This I shall certainly do if you *continue to require it* as a *thing adviseable.* But suppose we argufy a little on it. I have now, from Jan'y 23^d *Warrenton*, to Ap. 12^th Augusta (say 11 weeks) sent you upwards of 23,00$. An Immensity of this Country from Augusta to Mount Vernon has not yet been visited. Vast numbers of Subscribers may be had, and large Collections may be made especially as I am now just beginning (what I ought long ago to have done) to take up 4$ on each Subscription, i.e. for the *Vol.* & *the binding.* In thus working thro' all the towns villages &c &c of the Interior Country from this place to Mount Vernon or to Philad^a I shou'd raise you large monies; and by the time I made a full stop at Philad^a, you w^d have, cut and dry, the *two* first Vol^s ready for me to dash away on to the tune of 4$ a piece Calf & gilt, or 8$ a pair. This multiplied by 3 or 4000 Sub^s. (say *certainly* 3000) w^d rise to the elegant sum of 24000$ all of which might & w^d be very speedily collected. However if you think differently, send on *instantly* 300 Cop. Calf & Gilt, to *Savannah* to care of Doct^r James Ewell,[3]

[1] Could this be Theodore Dehon, 1776–1817; elevated to the priesthood, 1800; rector of St. Michael's Church, Charleston, S. C., 1810; consecrated first Bishop of South Carolina, Oct. 15, 1812? See *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, Boston, 1904, LC.

[2] William White, Bishop of Pennsylvania, 1787–1836.

[3] Weems' brother-in-law (see *Hayden's Genealogies*), the author of the popular and well-known *Planters and Mariners Medical Companion*, first published in 1807. He had a long and varied career. — James Ewell, M.D.,

and 10 days after, send 400 to Charleston to care of Doct[r] Philip Moser[1] Broad street. —

I suppose you will hardly get the 1[st] Vol. elegantly bound earlier than the middle of May: and as I shall meet the So. Carolina Legislature on the 10[th] & the Georgia Legislature on the 14[th]: I think it better being in this Country to begin the distribution here & so work on to the North. But for my own part I cannot but think you had better let me go on thro' this Vast Interior getting subscribers & remitting monies untill the 2[d] Vol be ready which will assuredly appear by August. The monies raised by your *own* & the *distributions of Citizen Ormrod*,[2] together with my *Remittances* will certainly keep you in blast till you can get the 2 Vols in heavy Column ready for the *pas de charge*. I have no doubt at all but I sh[d] be able to make arrangements to sell for you

'has just Received from London . . . (via Baltimore) and is now opening at his Medicinal Store, the sign of the Mortar and Pestle, the lower end of the main street, Dumfries, . . . an Elegant and Extensive assortment of Fresh Drugs, Patent Medicines, Surgeons Instruments, Shop Furniture, Dying Drugs, Painters Coulours [*sic*] Chests for private Families, Plantations, &c. executed in the neatest Manner, with plain and approved Directions . . . N.B. Having commenced the Practice of Physic in this Town, he offers his services to the Inhabitants there in its Vicinity, and hopes, that, by the strictest assiduity, care and attention, to merit their Favours.' *Virginia Gazette & Agricultural Repository* (Dumfries, Va.), Dec. 13, 1792, AAS. — 'Medical Warehouse. Dr. James Ewell . . .' *Georgia Republican & State Intelligencer* (Savannah), Oct. 16, 1804 *et seq.*, UN'YGA. — Appointed by a committee of the Georgia Medical Society to keep correct registers of the births and deaths in Decker and Derby Wards, Savannah. *Ibid.*, Oct. 4, 1805 *et seq.*, UN'YGA. — Peter Ward and James Ewell announce that they 'have again opened a private Hospital . . . the poor will receive medical Services gratis provided the humane citizens will come forward and make some appropriations . . .' *Ibid.*, Nov. 5, 1805 *et seq.*, UN'YGA. This partnership was dissolved on Oct. 10 and J. Ewell announced his intention to continue the project. — 'Dr. James Ewell will take as a partner, a genteel young practitioner of medicine, who can submit to be very industrious and who will advance a part of the capital. Dr. E. will also take into his shop, as a student of medicine, any youth of talents and morals; but one that is fatherless and indigent, would be preferred.' *Washington Gazette* (D. C.), Nov. 17, 1819, LC.

[1] Dr. P. Moser elected a warden of Charleston, S. C., Ward 2, in 1810. See *The Centennial of Incorporation*, 1883, Charleston, S. C. [*1884*], p. 150, LC.

[2] John Ormrod and Ephraim Conrad, printers of *The American Naval and Commercial Register*, Nov. 25, 1795, to December 28, 1795, when the title changed to *Finlay's American Naval and Commercial Register*, published by Godfrey Deshong until Feb. 16, 1796. See *Bibliography of American Newspapers*, Clarence S. Brigham, in *ProcAAS.*, Vol. XXXII, 1922, pp. 115, 194, LC. — 'From the Boston Gazette, Washington . . . We are happy to announce Judge Marshall . . . Mr. Ormrod of Philadelphia, is now . . . collecting subscriptions. . . .' [*Anon.*] *Fredericktown Herald* (Maryland), Aug. 6, 1803, AAS. Many deals recorded in *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS. See also *Addenda*.

5000 Copies of this your *first edition*. However, if, very contrary to my wishes and perhaps to your own Interest, you continue in an opposite opinion; write *instantly to me at Louisville, Georgia*, where, as before said, I shall be attending on the Legislature.[1] You will take into recollection that the monies arising from the distribution of this Solitary Vol. will not much more than double what I sh[d] remit from *New Recruits*. And then the much higher *satisfaction*, the far *greater Popularity*, and the strong flood tide of wealth pouring in from my plan & General Marshalls — to say nothing of the grand acessions which will be making by all those numerous Generals, Colo[s], Esquires &[c]. &[c]. in whose safe & active hands I shall, in my subscriptioneering thro' the Interior, deposit Proposals. Write *instantly* to *Louisville*, Georgia, & if you insist, send on the 1 Vol[s] as above directed —

But depend upon it you will find your Interest in adopting my advice.

Dreer Col. HSP.

Wayne had written under date of Mar. 21, 1804 [*Philadelphia*], telling Weems that one volume alone of *Washington's Life* must be first distributed, while the second 'will be in press.' 'For all subscribers obtained by you to the enclosed proposals I will give you *one half* the profits. Let me hear from you immediately on the subjects of this letter.'

'Divine Service will be performed in St. Paul's Church To-morrow, by the Rev. Mr. WEEMS, formerly Rector of Mount Vernon Parish,[2] Virginia, commencing at half past 11 o'clock.' *Augusta Chronicle*, Apr. 21, 1804, UN'YGA.

'The Rev. M. L. Weems, Rector of Mount Vernon Parish, Virginia, will preach in the State-House on Sunday the 20th instant, to commence at 11 o'clock.' *Louisville Gazette* (Georgia), May 2, 1804, HU.

[To C. P. WAYNE]

Dreer Col. HSP.

COLUMBIA, May 14, 1804.

D[r]. SIR. . . . My feelings are not of the pleasant sort. I have more money for you but am afraid to send it. Even this makes me un-

[1] Louisville was at this time the capital of the state.

[2] This, the first print I have found of such a claim, antedates by four years Weems' use of it on the title page of his *Washington*.

happy. The villainous spoliations so frequently made on the mail keep me perpetually on thorns. My speed here has been rather beyond expectations. 41 *Subscriptions!* A *small, poor* place — Corn $1.50 pr Bushell The *Door Keeper's* wages for this extra cession, 40$. The Chaplain's 25!!! Tomorrow I start. I start for Louisville — to meet the Extra Cession of Georgia — Thence I shall dash away for Athens &c. &c. If you approve of this mode of remitting in bills of exchange on N. York or Philad[a]. Let me know. At any rate I'll not remit till I get to Louisville, where I may perhaps see your sentiments on that subject. I'm miserable about Barrow's Sermons. One man told me just now that he w[d] subscribe for 12 Copies. Send me no more subscription papers by mail. Washington properly attended to will do great things for you. At any rate spare me till the Fall. In Almanacs I cou'd do much. If Washington's Life were *mine*, I w[d] immediately send on, handsomely gilt — 300 to Doct[r] Moser Charleston — 200 to Doct[r] Geo. Harral,[1] Savannah, & 200 to Doct[r] Murray[2] Augusta — These w[d] raise you in 6 weeks nearly 3,000$.

But tho' I will not be responsible yet I firmly believe they will be as safe as in the hands of *John Dickinson Wilmington*. I mean to push on like Fury thro' the *Interiors* of N. & S. Carolina.

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON. May 29. 1804

D[r] SIR. . . . As I find from the rapid rate at which you drive on your proposals, that you have nothing less in contemplation than to become the Lackington of America, I cannot but regret it as a serious misfortune that we *shou'd* be denied the mutual advantage of an Interview. I have no doubt I cou'd suggest a plan highly favorable to

[1] *Ad.* 'George Harral Has received of Mr. Wayne of Philadelphia, for distribution, the First Volume of the Life of Washington . . .' *Georgia Republican* (Savannah), Sept. 25, 1804 *et seq.*, GAHS. — During late 1803 and early 1804 Dr. George Harral advertised 'Drugs and Medicines, wholesale . . . Market Square, Savannah . . .' *Augusta Herald*, UN'YGA. — One of the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church, Savannah. *Georgia Republican*, Mar. 13, 1804, UN'YGA. — Elected alderman for Franklin ward, 'in the room of Major Cumming resigned.' *Ibid.*, Apr. 2, 1807, UN'YGA. — One of a committee of three for auditing the City Marshal's accounts. *Public Intelligencer* (Savannah), Sept. 11, 1807, GAHS.

[2] *Ad.* 'Doctor Murray, Has Just Received a Supply of fresh drugs and *Genuine* Medicines . . .' *Augusta Chronicle*, July 11, 1807 *et seq.*, DER.

your wishes. " However let time shape and there's an end." I'm assur'd that there are some of your letters, in these parts, in hot chace of me, but as there is no telling when they may come up, suppose you were instantly to dispatch me a billet doux to [*left blank*] I look to be there on the [*blank*] In that self same letter, be so good as to let me know what sums you have receiv^{d} from me since the 23^{d} of January, as also in what place and way you w^{d} that I sh^{d} dispose of myself this summer. But as, " in the multitude of Councellors there is wisdom," and as also in the long run of things, my life may be worth a Jew's eye to you, I w^{d}, by all means, advise, that, I be directed, like a Bird of passage, to spend the Winter in the South, and the Summer & Autumn in the North. In the seasons last mention'd the Gentry of this Country are scatter'd abroad like sheep without a shepherd, wandering in quest of Health and of healthy situations. And besides, were you to light upon them at that time, you w^{d} find them as lean as so many rabbits in the Dog days, without a dollar to lay down even for " The Life of Washington." But in Winter they are all in their towns thick as Bees, and merry as Crickets, with every man his pocket full of dollars from the sale of his Cotton bags & rice barrels. As *you* know that I have done nothing yet in the Interiors of N. Carolina & Virginia, suppose if you were to direct that I sh^{d} subscriptioneer it there this summer, and in september with *two* Vol^{s} to dash away from Balt^{o} to Savannah? I shou'd, thus, fall in with all these Southern towns, Cities &c. in that very nick of Health & Wealth, of Population and *Legislation*, that w^{d} ensure a splendid success. Let me hear from you about the Almanacks.[1] I am certain money may be made on that article. I desir^{d} M^{r} John Adams to call on you. Cou'd you not instantly procure a Kalendar calculated for N. & S. Carolina & Georgia? They sell their Kalendars, as they do everything else here, as Men who think very little about God or Devil. I beg to tell you once more that Almanacks sell very high in this Country. Print, & *deliver* them *here* and we go halves in the profits. As I travel a great deal, needs must that I shall sell a great many. But, by *all means* confer with Mr. J. Adams, whom you will find worthy of your friendship. . . .

[1] Probably alluding to his *Washington Almanac* for 1804. I have found none for 1805, yet see letter of Feb. 14, 1805.

Tomorrow I set off for [*blank.*] Give me a full answer, and if possible a satisfactory one, i.e. inform [*me*] that the "Life" is going on bravely — that my almanacs are at press — and that I may subscriptioneer it along till the birth of the 2d Vol. Mrs. Weems & our little ones, my very Nest of Happiness, are unwell — hence my wish to run your business this summer towards the North. However I shall do as you advise, but I am thoroughly persuaded that my advice is perfectly Oracular. I can't lose sight of our Almcs — I must have the same essay that I had in the last year's Almc.

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON June 4. 1804

Dr SIR. . . . Tomorrow, by *day break*, cou'd I have my way; but at any rate soon as I shall have dispatchd my Coffee, I set off — Happy, indeed cou'd I have set off 5 days ago — but what with musquitoes singing, and Gallinippers[1] stinging, — roads horrid, and suns torrid — We were all, Man & Horse, so wearied and Jaded when I arrived here last week I was under the painful necessity of *resting* till now. — I am worse than vex'd by the communication in yours of May the 2d. 87 to 93 cents pr Vol. in Elegant Calf!!! You amaze me! Well I've brought my Pigs to a fine market truly! As there is honesty in man, I lookd to get by the binding 12½ cents pr Vol at the least. When I was in Philada you told me you had talkd with a Binder whose charges were to the tune above mention'd, but you added that "he was an *extortioning* Dog"— and yet you have chosen to employ this *extortioning* Dog!!! — and advance 4000$ too!!!

Mr. Corchran (Brother of Stewart, Printer, 2d street) wd have done so heavy a work at 75 cents pr Vol. in Elegant Calf — I shall be miserable unless I get a *handsome almanac* with the same *matter*, I mean, *Political*, as was in the last years Almc. I have written both to you & to Mr John Adams on this subject — The Calculations must be for *S. Carolina* — They sell here for 100 & in Georgia for 150 to 200 cents pr Dozen!!! We will divide the profits — The Political part shd be striking off, while the part containing the Courts, officers &c. peculiar to each

[1] 'Gallinipper, *n.* . . . a large mosquito or other biting or stinging insect. *Colloq.*' *Webster's International Dictionary.*

of the Southern States of Georgia, S. & N. Carol[a] may be coming on, at your *order*. . . .

I have the Alm[cs] much at heart.

Dreer Col. HSP.

CAMDEN. June 16. 1804.

D[r] SIR. . . . As to your 2[d] edition, Great numbers of subscribers wou'd come forward, provided the Proposals requird *no advance*. I cou'd get much patronage to the Books alluded to in the *proposals sent me*,[1] but I have done nothing yet merely because I do not like to get Sub[s]. one, two or three years before the books can come forward, which I apprehend may be the case, as your powers are all so engaged in the Biography of Washington. As to my Alm[c] I trust that some sufficient arrangements are made with Mr. Adams. I shall push on to Mount Vernon unless your orders sh[d] turn my direction — shall I begin at Balt[o] & thence to the South? . . .

[FROM WAYNE]

Dreer Col. HSP.

PHIL. July 10. 1804.

SIR — I have anxiously looked for you some weeks — yours from Salisbury covering 100$ is just rec[d]. I write to you by return mail, directed to Petersburg — I wrote to you at Salisbury immediately on receiving your letter from Camden, & am astonished you have not received it. As to instructions it seems to be useless to give any as you do not seem inclined to follow them. It is my desire that you come here without a *moments delay* & this I told you in sundry letters when I found you were determined to quit S. Carolina. Your presence here is absolutely requisite to correct errors & give the subscribers the satisfaction they have a right to expect. In a former letter I told you I expected you by the 1[st] of July, but I have looked in vain.

Yours

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHAPEL HILL. July 11. 1804.

D[r] SIR. . . . I beg you not to send *any books* to *any Gentlemen* in *any town* for my Subscribers. You w[d] also very seriously oblige me if

[1] Perhaps Wayne's edition of Anquetil, issued in 1805.

you were to furnish to your Post Masters, Book venders &c &c who have taken subs, *no more copies* than *for their subscribers*. I.E., I shd be glad to see this business confin'd (if possible) to Mr. Ormrod & myself. By chipping & frittering it away among a thousand little whippers in, you will make it uninteresting *to us*, and hence must ensue a languor dangerous to the whole enterprize. Let me know (by letter to Petersburg) whatever may be proper for me to know. Don't forget my Almanacks. I mean, that you shd let me know what you have done in that affair. I have promised in your name 3 Vols in November. That will bring in a capital sum of Money for you, a circumstance that will prove highly agreeable to . . .

Your M. L. Weems.

I count on a certainty that you will let me have 4000 copies of this edition. I have you see nearly 3,000 already and can easily vend the additional 1000. I beg you not to send a paper or a book to Newburn, N. Carolina. I'll take that place as I come on to [*from?*] the South. Report of well-informd Persons, makes that place worth 80 or 100 copies. Which you know can be sent on, and distributed the very day subsequent to subscription taking.

Dreer Col. HSP.

Dumfries. Aug. 29. 1804.

Sir. . . . I fear you will do yourself injury by shipping your books in this unadvised way to Gentlemen of untried Honesty. 'Tis to this indiscretion that I owe a State of Poverty long & obstinate as the Trojan War. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

Aug. 31. Dumfries [*1804.*]

Dr. Sir. . . . [*The*] Stage extends thro' all the large towns from Philada to Savana & Augusta, and flying with that I can make some advance to the quality of Ubiquity, at least can render it superfluous to employ Agents.

I will aid you in your other *heavy works*, provided you will make it so that I may travel altogether with stage & so do a great deal in a *little time*. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMFRIES Sep 5. 1804.

SIR. Unwilling to lose a thing so precious now as time, after waiting a day or two for *your last* I dash[d] off at a tangent 25 miles to a camp meeting, whence I return[d] yesterday. In the morning I shall assuredly (God willing) set out to see you with all possible expedition. I shall come on in my favorite stage for the purpose of taking Lancaster York, Carlisle, Hagerstown, Frederick &c. &c. on my return. By all means have a good parcel bound in *style, elegant and ready for me.* Tis to me a matter of infinite grief that I cannot impress your mind with a just sense of the importance of having this work this most Interesting of all American works, executed in a *finely uniform style.* Everybody admires the execution as to its Internals — w[d] you but finish its Externals in a style *equally elegant* and as universally acceptable, you w[d] find in every [*one*] of your Subscribers to Washington, a Cordial Patron of your every subsequent Undertaking. But I do not even hope it. That were to hope against the stars — for I was born under a planet at mortal variance with all my typographic exertions. People begin already to complain of the binding as coarse, clumsy & totally unworkmanlike. I got into such high dispute, on the merits of the binding, 'tother day in Richmond and with one of the Great Dons of that Metropolis too as w[d] have astonish[d] you. But the Stage is coming. I shall see you as soon as it is possible for me to hurry along.

Dreer Col. HSP.

Sep. 21, 1804.

D[r]. SIR. . . . Now please to hear me once for all. I hate complaining as I do hell fire. Why then will you force me to complain? This sending [*me?*] creeping a snails gait over hill & dales to scatter[d] towns or beggarly hamlets will be the death of all my honest hopes.

My Sub[s]. live, by *thousands* in the large maritime towns &[c]. and there tis both your Interest & mine that I sh[d] be. After all my toils, cost, and hopes, to see Mr. Hill, Mr. Milligan, Mr. Kennedy [1] &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. running away with *nearly the whole* of my profits, is *Intolerable.* I'm

[1] The following may apply: *Ad.* 'New Publications, And other valuable Books, lately received and for sale by James Kennedy, Sen. At the Alexandria Library. . . .' *Alexandria Daily Advertiser*, Jan. 9, 1806, HU. — James Kennedy, Jr., was a druggist. See other advertisements in this paper.

enfever'd with rage at the idea. Now mark me well for I am going to make you an important offer. You already allow me one little dollar pr diem, travelling as now in this slow beggarly & beggaring way, wherein I make nothing either for you or myself. Now if to this one dollar, you will add one copy in *sheets* only, for every *hundred* that I sell for you, I will instantly on my arrival at Dumfries Jump into the *stage*, and dashing thro' the towns from North to South, I shall do what w^d^ charm us both — for one hundred dollars w^h^ I now send, I shall send you *five hundred*. In this way you will run *no risk*, nor shall I be *defrauded* of my just hopes, my commissions I mean. In many of these towns to w^h^ you send books to *other Agents*, scarce half the sub^s^ are furnish^d^ even after weeks *of delay*. Under my agency the monies w^d^ be immediately collected and remitted to meet your heavy engagements with Judge Washington. Your Best Interest consists with your Duty as also does *mine* which is to vend away as fast as I possibly can. The Surplus both of *Safety* and of *Service* which I sh^d^ render you in this way not only in Washington's life but also in Anquetil, Mrs. Hay's &^c^. &^c^. &^c^. is immense. At any rate I am determined to pass thro' the whole *chain of large towns*. And 'tis *your Interest* that I sh^d^ go in the stage. This cost of one copy in sheets, in *every hundred*, is a bagatelle not *worth naming*, perfectly a *non descript*, compar^d^ with the Great & Happy consequences. From these large maritime towns I shall be able to push on the books by packets or waggons to the chief of the Villages in the interior. And in these large towns I may add greatly to your *sales* & *subscriptions* of all sorts. . . .

Your fr^d^

Dreer Col. HSP.

COLUMBIA. Sep. 27. 1804

SIR. . . . I'm in a fever about Hyde — too much attention can't be pd to the Binding. The Eye is everything — charm that & you are safe. They won't *look at boards* — I tell *you again* the *eye is all, all, all!* My ammunition will fail — 4 towns (*York included*) and only 40 & odd copies —!!! We ought to have 150 Cop. for Freder^k^, Hagers, Sheppards [*towns*], Winchester, &c. For your sake, for Mrs. W's, & for my sake, do the best for me, with respect to *keep'g me in blast*. I die if I'm *idle*. — or disappointed — . . .

Your friend

Dreer Col. HSP.

HANOVER. PEN^{a} — Oct. 2, 1804

SIR. . . . From Dumfries I shall take the Stage to the South — You will find it infinitely your interest that I sh^{d} go in the stage — Besides I can never consent to lose so large a part of my honestly earned honestly expected profit — I mean commissions. —

You cannot be so desirous to receive as I am to send you *Large Monies.*

. . . If Oats cou'd adopt Hyde's style of ornamenting it w^{d} do gloriously — Oats binds infinitely the best but his ornamenting is rather too simple, too *Unshowy!* Attend to this —

Dreer Col. HSP.

BALT^{o}. Octob. 3^{d}!! 1804

SIR: . . . Why can't the current of Industry and of Success roll on a sweeping and constant-swelling flood? On my arrival here today I had not a single 1st Vol. and of the 2^{d} M^{r}. Hagerty had sold but 9!!! M^{r}. Hill wou'd not give him any catalogue. And M^{r}. Hill has so prejudiced the minds of the Subscribers that I am afraid I shall meet much interruption. One or two, of the very few I call^{d} on, wd not give me a penny. I have been compell^{d} in order to do away if possible, [*with*] the fatal effects of his calumnies, to publish, in *tonights* paper, your *letter of License*,[1] to which, as M^{r}. Hill had said that I *paid you nothing*, I have added, that, " I came into your employ thro' the recommendation of Judge W—— that I have not altogether disappointed the good opinion of the good Judge — but have gotten you many Sub^{s}, and have *honorably paid* up." In truth, such delay of [*books*] to me, — such ready furnishing to M^{r}. Hill, such incessant & varied provocations and disquietudes compel me to say, that, tho' I feel a sincere friendship for yourself & Lady, and an equal solicitude for your success in this perilous undertaking, yet I shall be willing to be off.

Grant me but a tolerable allowance for the 64.000$ I have gotten subscrib^{d} for you, and we'll shake hands, for I dispair of ever being treated as I think I deserve. I got no letter from you all the way from Charleston to Petersburg, and tho' I was toiling very faithfully & suc-

[1] See at end of letter.

POHICK CHURCH, VIRGINIA, IN 1899
After a wash drawing by M. Louisa Stuart

cessfully, getting you some hundreds of subs, yet you sent the books on to others, and thereby deprived me of my part. Mr. Hill, whose services must of necessity be small compard to mine, is inundated with books — while I have not one for York, Frederick, Hagers, Sheppards, Martinbg, Winchester &c &c &c &c &c. And here too, I am to be sent like a restless hungry Wolf, thro' all the mountains, from the Western parts of Pennsylvania to the Western parts of Georgia, while Messrs Hill, Millegan &c. &c. &c. like so many pleasant oysters, are to repose at home, feasting and fattening on the rich subscriptions which the tide of my Industry has rolled to their doors. If this is to be the way that I am to be treated, I insist to quit — Let the Good Judge Washington decide what allowance shd be made me. And if we are to go on, I shall never be happy, (as not thinking myself honorably dealt by) unless you sacredly observe to send to Mr Hill & to others, your own Subscriptioneering Post Masters South of the Delaware, *only their quotas as by* their own former returns — leaving to me to appoint both in town & country the Likeliest Gentlemen to prosecute your interest, and that you push on immediately 200 copies qt, for Fredk &c &c &c &c. I fear I shall be detaind here 5 or 6 days — then send on instantly one or two boxes at least with intreaties to the Boatmen to allow no delay — and observe, after taking this round for you to Dumfries I take the stage. Mr. Hill got but about 150 Subs. By furnishing a great many of mine, he has made 240, I allude to 1st. Vols. Now if you chuse & no doubt he'll be clamorous, to furnish him all the subsequent Vols. I shall look to you for my *full* commission, or nearly so. God is Judge that I want nothing more than to be concerned with a Gentleman who has everything to go on like Clockwork. The Books always ready for me, — the monies always ready for you. But to see others supplied, and myself neglected — a district allow'd me, and yet cut to pieces by others — This wronging me of my subscribers — that of my commissions — and a Third of my good name, makes me *sigh to be done with it.*

I hope to write tomorrow.

[*M. L. W.?*]

'To the Subscribers to Washington's Life, On the Rev. Mr. Weems' book. The Rev'd M. L. Weems, late of Mount Vernon Parish, Virginia,

is hereby authorized to obtain subscriptions to the Life of Washington, and to receive payments for the same, in all the states south of the river Delaware. Mr. W. was warmly recommended to me by the honorabls [*sic*] judge Washington, of Mount Vernon, whose very favorable opinion of him has proved to be perfectly correct; for Mr. Weems alone, has collected as many subscriptions as have been obtained for me by all my friends, the booksellers and postmasters throughout the United States. And his fidelity has kept pace with his industry, for of the large sums collected for me, he does not owe one single cent to

C. P. Wayne.

[*M. L. W.*]

N.B. Mr. W. is now in town with the first and second volumes to wait on subscribers. October 5.'

Baltimore Telegraphe, Oct. 4, 6, 1804, PIL. *Federal Gazette* (Baltimore), Oct. 5, 6, 1804, MdHS.

[To Thomas Jefferson] *L.C.*

Dumfries Nov. 22 [*1804.*]

Very Honord Sir. I beg your acceptance of the enclosed "The True Patriot." 'Tis among the first of my little callow brood, and, throughout, bears too evident marks of the pinfeather but I think I feel the growing strength of my quill, and hope e'er long to send you something better worth perusal. I had the hardiness to ask of you a line somewhat recommendatory of "Sidney's Republic," a work much extolld by *Taylor*, Rush & Dickinson. But these, tho Great men & True, are, comparatively, but stars of feeble light, and seen, only by the Few. — But your Excellency's Wisdom, Humanity, and Rank, have made you as a Sun in our land; and one beam of your approbation thrown on Sidneys Liberty pleading Vol. w^d^. render it the dazzling desideratum of thousands. This w^d^ be cutting out good work for an honest Ambition that has learned its right aim "the increased Happiness of Man," and covets but little more, now, at middle life, than to be doing something that may cheer the fireside of old age. That God may Continue your Excellency, a Great Blessing to our Nation, is both the Sabbath & Week day prayer of

Your very Obt.

M. L. Weems.

[From Thomas Jefferson] *L.C.*

Washington, Dec. 13, [*18*]04.

Sir I thank you for the pamphlet you were so kind [*as*] to send me which I have read with great satisfaction. You ask my opinion on the subject of publishing the works of Algernon Sidney. the world has so long and so generally sounded the praises of his Discourses on government, that it seems superfluous, and even presumptuous for an individual to add his feeble breath to the gale. They are in truth a rich treasure of republican principles, supported by copious and cogent arguments, and adorned with the finest flowers of science. It is probably the best elementary book of the principles of government, as founded in natural right which has ever been published in any language: and it is much to be desired in such a government as ours that it should be put into the hands of our youth as soon as their minds are sufficiently matured for that branch of study. in publishing it, I think his life, trial and letters should be thrown into one volume and the Discourses into another. the latter is the most important, and many purses can reach one volume which could not conveniently extend to the other. Should you proceed to the publication, be so good as to consider me a subscriber: and accept my salutations and assurances of great esteem and respect.

Th. Jefferson

The rev[d] Mr. Weems.[1]

[1] For the use Weems made of this letter in advertising *Sidney*, see *Bibliography*, *title 237*, *note 3*.

An intense, outspoken nature . . . as lavish as such natures generally are in the use of the acute accent. — WILLIAM CABELL BRUCE.

[To C. P. WAYNE]

Dreer Col. HSP.

RICHMOND Jan^{y}. 1st. 1805.

D^{r}. SIR — . . . You'll observe, that, at Petersburg I found the letter herein contain^{d}.[1] You see it is written in Mr. Jefferson's *first* style — it gives unbounded satisfaction to every body here to whom I've shewn it; and I trust you are not the last to appreciate its importance to us. Tis the general opinion that I shall get as many sub^{s}. for this work as for the Life of Washington. Be pleas^{d} to hear my words, and you have the better reason, as they are the words of one who is independent.

You said of Moore[2] & Anquetil that you w^{d} print and I dispense, and that half and half sh^{d} reward our mutual toil — you ask^{d} if that w^{d} satisfy? I answer^{d} in the affirmative — and satisfied then, I'm not dissatisfied now. But with respect to Algernon Sydney,[3] the case is somewhat tho' very trivially, different. This is my book; I shall have some trouble in vising & revising, in modernizing the obsolete & in turning Latinisms into Anglicisms. For this, not to say, all this I shall ask only an extra 5 pr Cent. You w^{d}. I'm pretty confident, have allow^{d} me that on Moore & Anquetil, but I refus^{d} it & still refuse. But there is one thing which as my right I shall not refuse, and that is, that you make me some allowance for what I am obliged to give to Agent^{s} distributing & remitting to you from *50 towns at once*. Gods! how astonishing that you do not see the consummate equity & perfect morality

[1] Of Dec. 13, 1804, p. 307.

[2] Perhaps the poetry of Thomas Moore. I have never found such a publication by Wayne, but Moore was very popular at this time, and it is quite possible that Wayne was discussing such an issue with Weems. It should be noted that later, in this same letter, Weems speaks of an offer of business from one Maxwell, and that in 1804 Hugh Maxwell, of No. 25 North Second Street, Philadelphia, had published the *Poetical Works* of Thomas Moore.

[3] In the end Weems undertook this himself. *Discourses concerning Government.* By Algernon Sidney . . . Printed and Published by C. P. Wayne. For the Rev. M. L. Weems. 1805. (*Bibliography, title 237.*)

of this thing!!! Here's Maxwell, here's Johnson &c &c offering me 33 1/3 pr cent, I strike with you for 10 pr cent! Now let me ask, did you ever expect, or intend that that 10 pr Cent sh[d] be reduc[d] to 7 or 8 pr Cent? Citizen Wayne I'll never give that up. Tisn't the 1½ or 2 pr Cent that I mind; but the principle, the injustice, the immorality, and, above all, the unlovingness of the thing. Heavens! w[d] I muzzle the generous steed that toils for me! No! rather let my pen forget her honesty. Had you said at first, "Mr. Weems, I agree to give you 10 pr cent, but *I know* & you are to understand that in the ultimate result, you are to get but 7 or 8 pr cent." what sh[d] I have thought? — But mark the following.

1. On Anquetil & Moore, I adhere to *your own* offer — ½ the profits.

2. On Sydney — one half the profits, with 5 pr Cent only, of extra allow[ce].

3 — On Washington, my old 10 pr Cent, with allowance for Agents, who generally ask *but 1½ pr* Cent!!!!

4[th] My little viaticum one doll. pr diem —

5[th] & lastly, my last years establishment viz. my *own* little *stage* & *Horses* — and as frequent robberies & murders forbid me to travel alone, I take with me the same young Relative to whom I give the perquisite (for I'm not able to give wages) of 2 or 3 little boxes of Alm[cs] & chap books &c.

Now in all this you will see no difference, nothing exceptionable except the trifling allowance for Agents & the 5 pr Cent extra on Sydney. As to the Alm[cs], my dear fellow, they & ½ their profits are *yours* if you chuse it, and the object of my letter on that subject was only to know your *mind* as to the Alm[cs]. In your next to me at *Petersburg*, only say Amen to the above 5 fair & equitable points, already (to all intents & purposes essential) conceeded, and I'll make *your* interests *mine* untill One hundred thousand doll[s] are p'd you from Wash. Anq. & Sydney. I'm afraid you dont see the importance of Sydney & Jefferson's letters, for *once* then hear my words. Print it instantly — & on a ½ sheet, on the 1[st] page, "The Proposals" & on the 3[d] a letter *circular* to all the P[*ost*]. Masters *North* of the Delaware, give 1 copy for 10 and let them direct their transcripts (of Sub[s]) to you. Duly attended to this may be a great thing to you & to

M. L. W.

Dreer Col. HSP.

PETERSBG Jan^{y}. 9. [*18*]05.

D^{r}. SIR. . . . He (Somerville)[1] shew^{d} me your letter with M^{r}. Conrad's declaration viz. "that he had rather distribute for nothing, than not distribute at all." Perhaps he w^{d} like to have the distribution in Washington & Georgetown. If so, you can send the books to his store in Washington, and I can, if you wish it, furnish the *catalogue* of sub^{s}. I came yesterday from Richmond. In 18 hours subscriptioneering I obtain^{d} from the Legislature 100 sub^{s}. to Sydney. Pleasants talks of Sub^{g} for *100 copies*. I have put that work pretty high 5$!!! — 2 Vol^{s}. . . . I have never had books in [*the*] quantities desired and expected. But I suppose it is because you can't get them. For the same reason I shall keep my peace, whether I be supplied in the whole, or half, or quarter, or by the doz of my wants. I hope, for *your sake*, never to see the face of one of the coarse edition: nor a copy in b^{ds}. — nor of p^{r} [*paper?*] nor patch^{d} — nor mismatched. . . .

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 61.

PETERSBURG. Jany 10. [*18*]05.

D^{r}. SIR. Somewhere near about this time I was to begin to remit to you. I now make a beginning, 'tis but small — but there is both room and hope for enlargement. You shall hear from me shortly.

For twenty dollars credit —

I have paid it to M^{r}. Ragsdale.[2]

[1] William Summerville, postmaster, Martinsburg, Va., Apr. 1, 1802 (first return) — 1820+ See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 368–369, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C. — *Ad.* 'I have . . . Wet and Dry goods, . . . I was led to hope . . . that, if not all, the major part at least of the numerous list who have so freely received and as tenaciously holds such an over proportion of my long and widely scattered property, . . . would, on my first published requisition, have been induced to settle if not discharge their accounts! But, . . . I . . . have to acknowledge, that . . . as little regard has been paid to the substantial claims of consideration and justice, as to those of the longest tried, wearied out patience, and the most urgent demands. . . . William Sommerville. June 16, '95.' *Potowmac Guardian & Berkeley Advertiser* (Martinsburgh, Va.), June 20, 1795, HU.

[2] *Ad.* 'New Book Store. Benj. Ragsdale, Residing on Old street, . . . has just received A part of his assortment of books, . . .' *Petersburg Intelligencer* (Virginia), Dec. 14, 1804, AAS. — There was a Benjamin Ragsdale, Chief

[To C. P. Wayne]

American Historical Record. II, Feb. 1873, p. 82.

Norfolk, January 25, 1805.

D. Sir: I am sorry you are under such a mistake. I told judge W[*ashington*]. & Genl. M[*arshall*]. that you had printed a 2d Edit. on a paper so thin as to make the vol. look but half as thick as the former, and this to be given to *new* subs. I said *then*, and I shall *forever say* that *this* is utterly wrong. Subs will all think themselves entitled to books of the same excellent quality, and will, as Genl. M. well observed, think themselves *cheated* if worse books be put upon them. Nor will they stop there, for after finding how much more elegant books are given to their neighbors, they will assuredly insist on an *exchange*, and, if denied will throw their books into my face, and curse & quit the business. Besides, the unfortunate smallness of the Vol. will, I fear, operate perniciously against it. People like a stout penny's worth for their penny. Now to give $12 for two such small vols. will, I apprehend, raise a talk, a hue and cry that may greatly check the subscription business. A world of money may be made by this work *wisely* and *patiently* managed, but this *slim edit.* & the proposed *change* in quality of paper will not do any good.

But vain is it for me to counsel; my counsel has ever been contemned. For six long months before the work was printed I begg'd and pray'd as if for *salvation*, that you wd have but *one style of ornamenting the books*. You have 2, 3, or 4. Now, half of my time (I shd have said *your* time) is vexatiously lost in exchanging vols — matching, transposing, answering objections, consulting friend's opinions about the *best* and *handsomest* &c &c &c. I assured you that nobody wanted it in bods [*boards*] — that they wdn't give a fig for it in bods and yet you will send numbers in this state.

Now I'll give you *what I think* wholesome counsel. You have a very heavy work at press, Auguetil [*Anquetil*].[1] Perhaps you have not one half of it cover'd by subscriptions. Now, is it sound policy, for the sake of saving 1 1/2 or 2 per cent., to keep me trudging about the streets, distributing single vols of a work already secured, rather than give my whole time and exertions to another & large undertaking? But you'll ask, "Cant W. be distributed and Auguetil subscribed for at same time, and by the same person?" No, by no means

Clerk in the State Bank of North Carolina, 1819, who might have been the same man. See *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, edited by William Henry Holt, A.M., Raleigh, 1914, Vol. I, pp. 133, 140, LC.

[1] *A Summary of Universal History; in Nine Volumes . . . Translated from the French of M. Anquetil, . . .* Philadelphia: Printed and Published by C. P. Wayne. 1805. (*Bibliography, title 250.*) This is one of the books for which Weems sought subscriptions for Wayne.

so *successfully*. A demand for *money* creates an ill humor that forbids all *immediate* demands for more favors. You present the 3[d] vol of W. "Sir, there are $4 on that. $4 for this!!! — Heavens! Well I'll subscribe for no more books." All that time he really thinks so, and w[d] not subscribe. But let him cool a little — let him read his 3[d] vol. of Wash. — let him recover his good humor, and then you may gain his ear to a flourish on the fine flowers and prints of Auguetil. Besides, with Aug., I can carry a handsome copy of Washington, and lay a broad base for a 3[d] edit. of W. by subscription, and surely 'tis the highest act of prudence thus to anticipate & stop European copies of that work. And moreover I can, with W. & A. carry Sydney, of which last work I think I could insure to you the sale of 1000 copies, even before the last vol. of W. shall be at press.

The world is pleased to say that I have talents at the subscription business; but they can be of but little use to you or to me in the present order of things. For my time is not only lost, but in presenting *mismatched books*, and in demanding their money, I so sour the minds of the Public that I can hope to do but little indeed. Thus when your 9000 vols. of Aug. are bro[t] to bed, 3 or 4000 of them perhaps, will have to lie still in your lumber rooms or to go out into the world in exchange for bad books, and these, in turn, to be hawk'd off at vendue for half price. And all this vexation & embarrassment is [*sic*] to be incurr'd for the sake of saving a very trifling per centage (1 1/2 or 2) to 15 or 20 booksellers who will be distributing and remitting to you every day a [*sic*] week while I am vigorously going on with other heavy publications, and laying in large store of fuel to keep you constantly in blast.

These things are well worthy your attention. In one hour I start for Halifax. As to the Alm. affair, There, also, you misunderstood me, when I wrote to you, there was not a moiety of them sold. And as you never told me so, I know not that you considered yourself as a party in the loss or gain of the undertaking. As then 'tis now at your own option.

On the above plan relative to W. Aug. & Syd. I have no doubt that judge W. & general M. w[d] if consulted, concur in my opinion as much the best for us both. You can write to me at Charleston. Please to observe that these things are all proposed to your reflection and choice — modestly proposed: — if you do not approve them, there is no offence given: but if you cannot assist in Sydney, I should be glad to know.

In your letter to me, at Charleston please to say when you expect Aug. will be ready for distribution; I mean the whole 9 vols. I am determined never to distribute another work in detail. You w[d] find it your interest to print as a 3[d] edition, 1000 cop. of Hymen's recruiting Sergeant, &

send on 200 to Charleston & 200 to Savanna. I wish that by the 10th of Febr. you wd furnish Doct. Ewell $50. on my ac't. Mr. Carey will furnish the copper-plate of Hymen, that is of Palemon & Lavinia. Your profits will be 80 or 100$, which are better saved than lost.

[Printed with a long footnote on Weems by the Editor, Benson J. Lossing.]

Dreer Col. HSP.

SUFFOLK. Feb. 2d. 1805.

Dr. SIR — . . . Have no more of Mr. O[*at?*]'s first binding than may be necessary to match those already bound. Get him to annex his *excellent execution* to Hyde's ornamenting. It gives, *universally*, most satisfaction. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

HALIFAX. Feb. 9th. 1805.

Dr. SIR. . . . I shall presently answer in full all your angry letters. There is no way now left you to do me Justice but by sending on Cataracts of Books — *Gilt and all gilt* — and, for your *own sake*, all of edit No. 1.

I begg you to pay my little Brother in law Doct Thos. Ewell [1] 50$. From Warrenton I hope to send you 3 or 400$ on Thursday. . . .

I subjoin 2 or 3 old sayings for your young tooth — "*Please*, and, *Prosper.*"

Penny, prudent — *pound*, prodigal —

[1] Thomas Ewell, M.D., graduate of University of Pennsylvania, 1805; brother of Fanny Ewell, Weems' wife. See *Hayden's Genealogies*, pp. 348 *et seq.*, LC. — *Ad.* 'Chemistry made plain. Proposals, for publishing by subscription, a new work, entitled Plain Discources [*sic*] on the Chemical Laws of Matter. . . . By Thomas Ewell, M.D. &c. of Virg. . . .' With recommendations from Th: Jefferson and Bush. Washington, *Expositor* (Alexandria, Va.), Dec. 2, 1805 *et seq.*, HU. — *Ad.* 'A New Work!! . . . The Plain Discourses of Thomas Ewell, M.D., late of Virginia, . . . designed for Domestic as well as Professional Gentlemen. . . .' *Columbian Museum* (Savannah, Ga.), Nov. 8, 1806, GAHS. — A letter signed 'Thomas Ewell, M.D., of the U. S. Army', in the *National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), Feb. 21, 1806, speaks of his observations lately published in the *Medical Repository*. — In a communication to him signed '*A Christian*' in the *National Messenger* (Georgetown), Oct. 31, 1817 *et seq.*, he is spoken of as the editor and commentator of the *Moral Essays* of David Hume. — In later life he evidently turned to new fields: *Ad.* 'New and Important . . . Letters to Ladies . . . Thomas Ewell, M.D. . . .' *National Messenger* (Georgetown,), Nov. 12, 1817, LC.

Up fame, up fortune or, *vulgaritu*, When a man's name is up *he* may go to bed."

Citizen W, you are now deep in play — Great is the stake — Washington is to you a fine hand in trumps — Play well, & fame & fortune are all your own — I'm your Hoyle, but you *don't know it.* I caution[d] you against this variegated binding — you despis[d] my counsel — see now what a purgatory has resulted — I begg[d] you to put up 10,000 Cop, on the Old generals head. But, No, you w[d] have your own way. Now see the Consequences — And yet you think me a Fool —

Well let time shape — and there's an end —

Dreer Col. HSP.

WARRENTON. Feb. 14, 1805.

D[r]. SIR. . . . I shall want a host of books this campaign. I pray God you send me not into the field in the old tag rag and bob tail[d] style. Regiments upon Regiments in red and gold I shall expect to flash around me at Charleston — The *name*, — the *noise* — the Eclat is EVERYTHING. Great God! Why will not young men learn of the Old? Oh when shall we see Old Heads upon young shoulders?? Never — never — never. I told Judge W[*ashington*] that I hop[d] to send you 20000$ before my return from the South — Let me not return with a heavy heart. I tell you again and again, that *Your Interest* calls aloud on you to put to press 1000 or 1500 Copies of edit. *No. 1 best* Take notice, Gen[l] M. told me that he cou'd not let you have last Vol. earlier than Feb. 1806. Now in all that interval what am I to do? You do me infinite injustice. You wrote about the Alm[cs] with a sarcasm as if I wish[d] to have the whole of the emolument in that poor enterprise. Now the truth is, I fear[d] the Alm[cs] w[d] not all be sold — and my fears I believe will prove to have been well founded. — and I wanted to know whether you meant it as a thing understood, that you were to go snacks in the good or ill fortune that sh[d] turn up — You retorted, in answer to my friendly note to you about Sydney, " that the profit was all to be on one side" — God knows I never meant anything so selfish, and if my observation, " that I thought I ought to have extra 5 pr cent on books of my own originating and which cost me a good deal of extra trouble, — if that seem unreasonable, I shall be well content with what-

ever *is reasonable*. Sydney does not seem to possess on your mind, that Great Importance to which he is most justly entitled. Mr. Jefferson is very much thought of throughout the Continent; and if we cou[d] get his letter handsomely *engraven in fact simile* (which I beg you w[d] let me know) I have not a doubt but that you might print *3 editions* of it of 1000 Cop[s]. each wh wd nett you 3000$. I want to know when Anquetil will be ready for delivery. I remember your saying, "*that Washington excepted, we might as well run nothing else together.*" If that be your wish I have no objection to it, but if it was but the language of a momentary displeasure, I am willing to act with you in Anq. so soon as you shall be *within 7 months* of its delivery in toto, for I will never deliver another book so mismatch[d] & bedeviled as Wash has been. I say "within 6 months" for that will be time enough for me to get my allowance, I mean, "*One third* of the edit.["]

Mr. John Adams, tells me, that, at your recommendation, he put my books with a Mr. Carpenter,[1] for *binding* — You will oblige me by asking Mr. Carpenter the full amount of all that he has of them, and in what state of forwardness he has them.

Dreer Col. HSP.

Tarboro. Feb. 25, [*18*]05.

Sir — . . . Well 3000$ in 10 weeks is not quite so bad — and hardly any books to boot!!! What might I not do, *well kept in blast?* O think of that and reform!

I long to know whether you have received those monies safe & sound — let me know in your letter to *Charleston* — Write seldom, but remit often — *few* letters and *many* books. Wou'd God you cou'd send the 2[d] edit. to Ormrod & the Puritans of the North. 'Tis their profession to bear & forbear and to do good for evil. The People in the South are Infidels. They will run horn mad if you vex 'em in the Life of Wash. So you have got a *3[d]* sort of binding!! One by Oates — one by Hyde — one thus letter[d] Vol. 1 — another plain (1). I believe you incapable of *spite to me*, but permit me to tell you that spite cou'd do nothing worse to yourself & to me. And the ground-colour of the books so different

[1] 'Carpenter John, jun. bookbinder 19 Carters Alley' *Philadelphia Directory*, 1805, LC.

and so *glaringly unlike*. This a plum blue — and that a bottle green — one a dull mulatto & another a bright clear olive. For God's sake speak *every day* to the Binders. Every town I come to pours in new Subs. Your fortune will be secure if you will but *please the People*. I begg^d^ you to write me, when Anq. in *full* will be [*ready?*] whether you will spiritedly Cooperate with Sydney — whether you can get Mr. Jefferson's letter done in fac simile. I have a plan to make *your fortune* & *mine* if you will but oblige me in this affair of Wash. You cannot injure me in that without injur'g yourself.

Have you given Doct^r^ Ewell 50$? Well on the 10th of next month pay him 50 more & oblige

Your

M. L. W.

Dreer Col. HSP.

NEWBERN March 10. 1805

D^r^. SIR. . . . You say you w^d^ cheerfully have undertaken Sydney & the R[*ecruiting*] Serjeant, had it not been for the *Almanacs* — the *prayer books* — and Anquetil. Now 1^st^ as to the *Almanacs* — I told you my reasons for asking, whether you meant to be a Party in that, or not. The Alm^cs^ were not *a third sold;* the Season was far advanc^d^, and I wish^d^ but to know whether you meant to be a Partner in their fate *good* or [*bad?*]. Such a wish was the legitimate offspring of Prudence and carries on its honest countenance [*the*] fairest features of Probity. M^r^. W. your confidence in me has completely put it in my power to injure you in *Great Matters*. I shall not attempt it in *such trifles*. But 2^dly^. the *Prayer books* furnish another objection. You had a few of my Prayer books at the *very* price charg^d^ *me by M. Carey*. I receiv^d^ of you in exchange, some little miscellaneous books which I promis^d^ and meant to *vend* for our mutual benefit. But soon finding that the sale of this trumpery w^d^ prove a most serious hindrance to the Great work, I begg^d^ you to take them back. This is highly probable & must appear so to those who know that I had nobody with me to attend to this Tom Thumb Merchandize. God is my Witness, how greatly I shoud rejoice to vend not only all your little books, but also all my own: but to do this and vend Wash. too is utterly impracticable by one who has *no Aid*. When I reach^d^ Dumfries M^rs^.

Weems turn^{d} pale at the bare idea of my traversing *alone* the vast forests of those southern states. Her little Brother, the youthful Partner of my last year toils, again attends me. *I told you this.* And on principles of common policy, your heartiest concurrence was to have [*been*] expected. A man who carries of your property *in books & cash*, to the *tune*, *frequently* of 1000$ ought not in this country to go alone, nor *unarm^{d}*. And 3^{d} as to Anquetil I never meant to act a *neutral part* in that work. I only told you I w^{d} never *distribute* the work in *detachments*. I ever intended to lead a *heavy collumn* when ready and begg^{d} you to let me know when it w^{d} be *from the press*, *entire*. You say that some Parsons in M^{d}. thinking themselves neglected by you, have insisted that their monies sh^{d} be returned. How coud you ever think of blaming me for that? When passing by York, M^{c}Callisters [1] &^{c}. &^{c}. &^{c}. how gladly w^{d} I have given drops of my hearts blood, for as many cop. of W handsomely b^{d}. Not having them what coud I do but disappoint? You say that by my "neglecting to push the *thin* copies I do you more harm than I ever did good." I do not refuse to push the *thin* copies. I only wish^{d} to make you *sensible* how much more splendidly your interests (in my hand) w^{d} be promoted by circulating the Elegant edit. and also I desir^{d} that you w^{d} push the edit. *no 2^{d}* to the *East*. The People there are more religious than they are here, and w^{d} not curse & swear so sadly under what they might deem ill treatment. If you say that the *thin* Edit *must*, *must*, *must*, be sold, *I'll sell* it but still I deplore it as the heaviest affliction of my life. I counted on *half making* your fortune by this *one book; Ormrod*, together with one or two more books might have accomplish^{d} the rest. Immense sums are to be made by this book. Here have I in coming just from Norfolk to Newbern obtain^{d} [*seal*, *100?*] new sub^{s}. nearly, and what thousands still remain to subscribe! You were better take good counsel before you quit old Washington, his *name* is a *pleasant sound* in the ears of millions. I've obtain^{d} already more than 70.000$. I feel no fear about 100.000 more. M^{r}. W. I conceiv^{d} a good friendship for you — and tho I was a good deal angry with

[1] *Ad.* 'Just published in German, as taken from the original Manuscripts . . . controversy or written dispute, . . . between A Lutheran Minister and a Number of poor Tradesmen . . . may be had of . . . Mr. James Bolton, Hanover, M'Alister's-Town.' *Pennsylvania Herald & York General Advertiser* (Pennsylvania), Dec. 25, 1793, AAS.

you in the affair of Hill — and think that you have treated me much worse than any other of your Aids, yet I felt a wish to do something clever for you, and coud my counsel but have due *weight* &c. &c. however you are a going to sell out, and so there's an end. I shall be glad, if in your next to me in Charleston, you will let me know to *whom you have sold*. You have mentiond this little affair of the Almancs several times; but to mention it several times more wd not wound my feelings, which fortified by *conscious Innocence*, can suffer nothing from uncharitable censure. As to Sydney — I did not propose it to you on my *own* account. There are many presses that will gladly cooperate with me. Send on of your 2d edit, as *fast as possible*. They shall be duly attended to. I hopd to have had the sales of the 1st edit. but since it cannot so be I shall do all I can with the 2d.

Dreer Col. HSP.

SAVANNAH. May 7, [*18*]05.

Dr. SIR. . . . As to Sydney agreably to your wishes, I now will say something. Numerous will be the Subs. to that work, but I hate large editions. We must have 1000 copies ready for delivery by the *1st day of October* in order to get the work off our hands, (I mean the 1st edit.) by the time the 5th vol. of Wash. goes to press. As I shall have a good deal of vexation in Anglifying, modernizing &c &c. I thought 5 pr cent ought to be allowd me. However give me a dozen copies of the work and I'm satisfied, to *divide* &c as you propos'd. As to *proposals* you need print none — the type must be the same as that usd in printing Washington's Life and the paper shd be as *fair* and good, *perhaps* not quite so thick as that of yr best edition. Reputation is a great thing. "*The best Printer in America*," be that your fame & fortune will follow. I shall send you on the 1st Vol. in a fortnight. Tis true I live here at much cost & in much wretchedness cut off from the pleasant haunts of home too much endeard by the Lovliest Wife & fondest children on earth, but still I blame you not, and therefore will wait patiently all my appointed time till my change come. . . .

Indeed I'm going to send or bring you an Alphabetical list of all my Subs. from Genesis to Revelations, includg names, resid, books recd, monies pd &c &c. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 62.
SAVAN. May 13, [18]05

To MATHEW CAREY ESQ[r].

From Charleston I sent you..... $20
Now I send you 20

I told you in my last, and still do tell you, that in Autumn I shall pay you off every cent due.

My best wishes to M[rs]. Carey & Miss Margaret & family.
Wayne's losses [1] have thrown me back a good deal.

[To C. P. WAYNE]

Dreer Col. HSP.
SAVANNAH May 14. [18]05.

D[r] SIR. . . . Sydney ready for press comes with them. I beg you to do great justice to Sydney & credit to yourself — in the *impression* I mean. Only let us get over this confus'd mangled edit. of Washington & everything will I hope go on *pleasantly* & *profitably*. Please attend to the punctuation of Sydney. Now that we can do it to mutual understanding, I am willing to join you in an edit. of 8000 elegant alm[cs]. Let me hear from you. I don't want any other person yet awhile but yourself to print a letter for me, as I am allow[d] a little daily salary by you. Can you get a Kallendar for the lattitude of Savanna. I can send you everything else. 'twill be worth your while — As you declin[d] Hymen I desir[d] Bioren to print me a 1000. I wish you w[d] ask him how it goes on & let me know all in your next.

Dreer Col. HSP.
SAVANNA. May 16 [18]05

D[r] SIR. . . . The following ideas strike me so sensibly that I cannot resist the wish to reiterate them — "We are embarked together — let the business be undivided. We count, for our temporal hopes, on books. Then certainly the more we print the better. Now I'm morally certain that if you cou'd but get Sydney and the Almanacs deliver[d] to

[1] In a letter of April 12 from Charleston Weems had stated: 'Poor W. has lost 4.500$ in shipments of the Life of W. to this place only.'

me at the very places to which you are to send Washington, viz. to Alexand[a] Fredericksbg, Richmond, Petersbg. Norfolk Halifax, Newburn, Wilmington, Charleston, Savanna &[c]. &[c]. by the middle of October I cou'd vend to Sub[s] & to the 4 State Legislatures 1000 Cop. of Sydney & 7 or 8000 Almanacs. However if you dont like the trouble of the Almanac I wish you w[d] instantly speak to Mr. John Adams. Old Mr. Stewart Printer, 2[d] St.[1] will tell you of some Man who will furnish the calculations for the latitude of Georgia & S. Carolina and also one for the latitude of Richmond. Let it be done immediately. I will furnish the *matter* &c &c.

N.B. Now to the *main point*, I mean *Sydney*. Can't you so arrange & so work double tides as to get Sydney here for me by the 1st or middle of Octob.? The States will all be in their sessions. On the 1st of Nov. — That will be a capital time for distribution. The 1st Vol. is corrected & will be on the way by water to you by the time *you get this*. The 2[d] will soon follow There are but two Vols of about 400 pages 8°. The very same type with Washington & paper as fair tho' perhaps *not quite so thick*. . . . I tell you I want to draw as little money as possible out of your hands. Therefore if you love me, or yourself, send, send of *Blair* (my Blair now *lying dead* in your town!) send as follows — in red sheep. *neat*. . . . These books have been *lying dead* a great many years!!! Push them off. I am getting ready for you another beautiful book which Gen[l] Pinckney says ought to be in the hands of every youth in the U. States.[2] — You shall have it soon. — I've a plan that will do great things for us both — I'll come on by & by. I mean when the hurry of Wash. is over, & I tell it to you if it cost but a little more let Blair be in red sheep letter[d] & *very neat*. Let me know when the 4th vol. will certainly be out. Why wont you send me my Washington's life (Pamphlets — also Hymens sent to you from Balt°?) Attend properly to Mr. Conrad

[1] Peter Stewart. See *Philadelphia Directories*, AAS.

[2] Probably referring to his *God's Revenge against Murder* (*Bibliography, titles 177, 178*), see note 4 to letter of Sept. 29, 1808. — 'The generation of Weems' literary activity, approximately the years 1790–1820, was a sterile period in the production of books for young people or for the less cultured of their elders. Of native writers, at least, scarcely one offered anything fit for the reading of children, and even in England the list of books for young people and in the least suitable for them was painfully short. . . . Weems was a pioneer in what has since become a great industry, the writing of books for boys.' *Parson Weems*, Lawrence C. Wroth, p. 61.

Balt°. give him full lists of all my Eastern & Western shore Sub^{s}, with some of the neighbor.g towns in Pennsylvan^{a}. & let him advertise that Sub^{s} from Eastern & Western Shore Md. & Virg^{a} eastern shore may get of him. God bless you.

Dreer Col. HSP.

PETERSBURG. GEO^{a}. June 8. [*18*]05

D^{r}. SIR. . . . Capt^{n} Pope [1] is so very good as to bring on the 2^{d} Vol. of Sydney — You can hardly be sufficiently attentive to this Book. I must have it out at Savanna & Augusta by the middle of Octob. Great things may yet be done by *Great Exertions* — . . .

From Charleston I sent you the 1st Vol. of Algernon [*Sidney*]. I must have the work beautifully printed &c. by the next Legislative sessions in these States. Great success may crown my exertions for our mutual good — I entreat you to do something for John Adams.

I am altogether in darkness — utterly unacquainted with what you have done for me, or what you mean to do, I have nothing to do with M. Carey. And If I cou'd but be well-treated & liberally supported by you I never shoud have anything to do with him — I shall come on shortly — i.e. after having work^{d} on thro' Wilmington, Camden, Salisbury, Newburn &c &c &c &c &c. I desired you to let Dr. Ewell have 50$ for the 10th of this month — & this for the last time, as he will want no more. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

PETERSBURG. July 21, [*1805*]

D^{r} SIR. . . . As I coud get no assurance of books at Wilmington, Newburn, Washington, Tarboro &c &c I thought I wd push on & furnish my Sub^{s} to the North, in the *healthy north*. And this I concluded on for 3 reasons — 1st as before said, I had no certainty of meeting books at Wilmington &c even were I to go thither — 2^{d} My friends thought the *danger*, at this season, *too great* — and 3^{dly} if the books be sent to John

[1] Leroy Pope, postmaster, Petersburg, Ga., Jan. 1, 1804 (first return) — 1810. *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 482–483. P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C. — Appointed a Commissioner of the town of Petersburg, Ga., Dec. 1, 1802. See *The Dead Towns of Georgia*, Charles C. Jones, Jr., Savannah, 1878, p. 236, LC.

London[1] or Geo. Hooper.[2] Wilmington, to Da' M^cKinley Newburn — and to John G. Blount,[3] Washington, they will be dispos^d of as well as if I had, at great risk of a *most valuable* life, run thither in person — Be pleas^d *instantly*, to let me know by return of mail to *Dumfries*, whether you have sent to those places & to those Gentlemen — that I may as instantly send on to them the name[*s*] of Sub^s. — Let me also know whether you have got the large monies I sent you from Petersbg Georgia by Captn Pope & from Augusta by *mail* & whether you have got the 1 & 2 Vols Sydney: for sweet heaven's sake push that work — that Good work — I want immediately to furnish the Winchester, Martinsbg Sheppardtown, Hagers &c Sub^s. but for the Soul of me, I cant tell whether they have had of W[*ashington*]. of H[*ymen*]. however they were furnish^d out of the two boxes sent to *me* at Balt^o., to care of Hagerty — perhaps in Octob. '04. But I ask pardon — I find that the Sheppardstown, Winchester & Martinsbg Sub^s. to about 50 or 60 have had of O. c qt. — and at Fred^k town & Hagers about the same number of O c qt. & about 20 or 25 c.qt. H[*ymen*]. Send on therefore instantly to me at Dumfries, to *that Amount* — *instantly*, for I long to be working along thro' those towns, to you in Phila. or do you advise me not to work along in this way? — I want in Octob. to be going to the South to complete there in the *healthy* season, all that *remains undone*. Write to me *particularly* & *instantly* — I'm *wretched* because you'll give me nothing to do — this moment I set off for Richmond where I hope to get [*a*] good draft of

[1] *Ad.* 'Piano Forte . . . For Sale, A well tuned patent second-hand one. — The price in Cash is Ninety five Dollars. John London. April 9, 1804.' *Hall's Wilmington Gazette* (North Carolina), May 1, 1804, AAS. — There was a John London, Clerk of the County Court in New Hanover, N. C., 1775. See *A History of New Hanover County* . . . 1723–1800, Alfred Moore Waddell, p. 220, LC.

[2] *Ad.* 'For Sale, A few Tierces of good Coffee — also — Mulcovado Sugar . . . George Hooper. Bottled London Porter . . . Salt . . . George Hooper.' *Hall's Wilmington Gazette* (North Carolina), Nov. 29, 1798, AAS. — 'To Rent . . . valuable Plantation on Rockey-Point, called New-Grounds. . . . for terms apply to William Hooper, on the Plantation, or to George Hooper, Esq. in Wilmington. Jan. 27.' *Ibid.*, Feb. 7, 1804, AAS. — '. . . Taxable property returned for Wilmington district, New-Hanover County, for the year 1801.

Persons Names.	Acres of Land.	Town Lots.	Free Polls.	Black.	County Polls.
Hooper George	1475	22	1	9	16'

Ibid., May 1, 1804, AAS.

[3] John Gray Blount, of Washington, N. C., a partner with his brother Thomas (sons of Jacob Blount) in mercantile and shipping business. See *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina*, J. Kelly Turner and Jno. L. Bridgers, Jr., Raleigh, 1920, *f.n.* on p. 109, LC.

900$ for you. I can get none here but on N. York & for 60 days — this I thought wd [*not?*] do you — . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMFRIES July 31 — [*18*]05

Dr SIR — . . . I advised you to send to John G. Blount Merchts Washington N. Carolina — Why do you aberrate from my appointments? I know, at least, *ought* to know the People better than you — Dont be perplexed — Judge Washington is not a hard man — He is your Friend & will wait a little as 3 Vols are out we shall soon raise him 15000$ — I tell you again that nothing on earth affords me more *real pleasure* than to be hourly in the receipt & remittance of large monies to you — I left the Carol[*ina*]s for several reasons — 1st I was not informd by you, at any of the towns at which I calld, that you wd have Books for me. 2d I believed it rather dangerous to my *health & life*. 3rd I knew that my wealthy & Washington Loving Friends in Wilmington, Newburn, Washington, Tarboro &c &c wd do as well as I coud & 4th I knew that in pushing to the North I shd still be distributing & collecting for you — & 5th my young man who rides with me, not being *temperate* & cheerful as I am, was taken dangerously ill with the disease of the hot climate — I beg you my Dr Fellow, to keep up your spirits. All will yet be well. Put Sydney to press. I'll bring you the alphabetical list &c. Send me 40 Sets to York Pena — Oh for Heaven's sake give me the pleasure, the Rapture to furnish you, (by Myself & my Friends) 70000$ by 1st day of March — I shall write fuller in two days — I have a grand plan to communicate to you —

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 64.

DUMFRIES. Aug. 2. [*18*]05.

Dr SIR. . . . Mathew Carey, Esqr shd remember that I am as incapable as himself and *more so* of doing *knowingly*, an unjust *action* — an oppressive action.

In 8 weeks I hope to see Philada — I shall have money in my hand and hope with that hand to write myself a *Freeman* —

I originated your Family Bible — Treat me kindly, and you shall find that the coals of my friendship have gatherd no ashes — Treat

me unreasonably — treat me domineeringly and you shall find that Others may divide with you the Profits of your Family Bible Types —

Best wishes to M^rs C. & to your Famille — . . .

[From Carey] *L. & F.* Aug. 10, 1805.

Sir, Your letter of the 2^d which I rec^d [*?*] lies before me. I observe its contents. I sh ld have hoped the lenity and indulgence I have extended to you from year to year, wld have secured me from impertinence & threats, which, as I have never deserved them I will not submit to:

The impertinence, to say no more, of the following extract, I leave to your own candour to decide upon. "M. Carey shld remember that I am as incapable as himself — and *more so* — of doing knowingly an unjust action — an oppressive action."

Exalt yourself as high as you please — but, Sir, have more modesty than to do it at the expense of a man who has treated you with kindness, hospitality & undeserved indulgence. Yours &c.

[To C. P. Wayne] *Dreer Col. HSP.* Dumf. Aug. 3^d 1805

D^r Sir — . . . I believe I shall start tomorrow for M[*t*]. Vernon & thence push for Balt^o to see if I can get any books for Winchester Sub^s of (O c.qt) — If Job were in my situation he w^d outcurse a Boatswain of a British Man of War. The Binders! The Binders! Oh! God help the Binders!

Dreer Col. HSP. Dumf. Aug. 9th [*1805*].

D^r Sir. . . . So, let a man act as well as he may still there's something to drive peace away. Let a man's Soul be in the enterprise yet his Colleagues, by sickness, sloth, pleasure, & the Dear knows what, will throw crosses & curses in his way. I've had enough in my way, God help me! If Col^o. Rob. Gamble's [1] draft which I sent to you (putting it into the office with my own hand, so help me God) is not arriv^d

[1] 'Colonel Robert Gamble, . . . an active merchant, and . . . a most estimable citizen [*of Richmond*].' *Richmond in By-Gone Days; being Reminiscences of An Old Citizen*, Samuel Mordecai, Richmond, 1856, p. 74, lc. — Gamble advertised largely in the *Virginia Argus* (Richmond) of the period.

write to him instantly — he promised he wd advise Mr. Thos Leiper,[1] by mail, you can call on Mr. Leiper.

I beg you to send no more *Blairs* to any place *North* of *N. Carolina*. As to the Books sent to Mr. Gleeson [2] Let them lie, — I sent you a correct list of Subs for him.

J. G. Blount wd have pleasd me better, because better known & much endeared to *me* & I *to him*. I shall scold Parson Davidson, *Carlisle*, about the books credited to his Pupil. In your next, please to let [*me*] know exactly what is done with my Hymen's reprinted by Bioren — tell Bioren all shall be well when I see him. . . .

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 65.

Dumfries. Sep. 2d. [*18*]05

Sir. Since the receipt of yours, I've been so hurried with the Biography of Washington, as to lack leisure, to answer it, till now — You are pleasd to charge me with *impertinence* for thinking you capable of an unjust action, an oppressive action. Leaving the verdict to yourself, I shall just state my reasons. Why, I wd ask, why rose the steel of Brutus against the life of Caesar? Had Caesar wrongd Brutus of that *trash*, his purse? No — not to the value of an Obolus. But Caesar had wrongd Brutus of that which generous minds hold dearer than Gold — he had wrongd him of his *Equality* &c, so tho' you never wrongd me of my gold yet you have wrongd me of my well earnd fame. From the moment I commencd the glorious toils of a Bookseller I coveted the honor of circulating a Family Bible — I applied to Adams, also to Henry Willis,[3]

[1] Thomas Leiper, Lieutenant of Light Horse, Patriot and Financier in the Revolution; Pioneer in the Development of Industries and Inland Commerce in Pennsylvania; came from Scotland, with four brothers, in 1746, when nineteen years old; settled in Virginia, later came to Philadelphia and was once its Mayor; a few years before the Revolution, dealt in snuff and became a successful tobacco merchant, and land purchaser in large amounts; constructed the first track railway, three-quarters of a mile long, in 1809. Samuel Gordon Smyth, 1900, p. 17, HSP. — Advertisements of land by 'Thomas Leiper, Tobacconist.' *Pennsylvania Gazette* (Philadelphia), Jan. 3, 1798, AAS. — Appointed Chairman, with M. Carey, Secretary, at a meeting of Republicans at Germantown. *Mirror of the Times* (Wilmington, Del.), Sept. 15, 1802, DHS.

[2] It is just possible that this is the Jonas Gleason who was one of the subscribers to Mease's *Picture of Philadelphia*.

[3] Would this not probably be the H. Willis with whom Weems printed *An Estimate of the Religion of the Fashionable World*, Hannah More? (*Bibliography, title 231.*)

both of whom furnish[d] subscription papers to which I obtain[d] sub[s], and our tree of hope put forth its blossoms but alass for lack of golden moisture it droop[d]. & died without fruit. On entering into your service I importun[d] you for a Family Bible. I spoke of it to you, (you cannot but recollect the *terms*) as of a *vein of* Potosi to your purse. Long I plead, but in vain, till one day, one lucky day, when the stimulus of an unlented dinner and a cheerful glass had rais[d] your spirits to noble darings, you snatched the ready [*pen?*] and after a few minutes of rapid calculation you turn[d] to me with a, by G—d I'll undertake it. No sooner said than done — with a splendid prospectus and an Elegant Frontispiece I was started a-subscriptioneering along the high way that leads to N. York, as unpromising a tract, to be sure, as the Devil coud have put me upon, for but a short time before that, it had been cover[d] with Isaac Collins Bibles. And yet on that sterile ground so abundant was our crop that it determin[d] you to those Exertions which have succeeded according to my predictions, and which will, if undivided by Jealousy, soon make your fortune. And yet for originating this noble work, so profitable to yourself & to the Public, you have not only never thank[d] me, but have even kindled into wrath whenever I have but mention[d] it. If this be not an *unjust action*, I am still to learn the definition of the term. And when in the sales of Goldsmith at 750, I rais[d] the price to 800, what Casuist will deny my right to the surplusage, or that your monopoly of that was an act both oppressive & unjust? And when after vending for you a great many copies by subscription I learn[d] that the price was to be raised, had I not ground to complain of that as contrary to contract, & therefore oppressive & unjust? And after engaging me to run your business (in partnership with that of M[r]. Wayne) for 1250$ *pr Annum*, you stopp[d] before the *half year* was well expired, was not that oppressive? You were pleas[d] to blame me, but the failure was owing as I have ever told you, to an inadequate supply of Books. As proof, had I but books to my mind, and only a 12 month to arrange, I w[d] stake five years of my life's labours against five thousand dollars that for five years to come I w[d] sell at the rate of 15.000$ pr year. And yet I'm to blame.

" Among the sons of Men how few are known
" Who dare be just to Reas'nings not their own?"

There was no need of passion, Mr Carey, as if I suspected your integrity, for you *cannot but know* that I have ever confided to you the adjustment of all our pecuniary matters. And as little need was there to remind me of your Hospitality for I have never been unmindful or unthankful for it. But Men may be very Hospitable & Honest and yet in some parts of their dealing give to their best Friends cause of remonstrance. During my successful run of the Animated Nature, you commissiond me to establish for you sundry Bookstores, promising me 5 pr cent on the sales. I who never wrongd you of a cent, and who never, knowingly, told you an untruth; am ready to depose to this. You cannot but know it, and knowing it, you cannot, if I know you aright, otherwise than do the thing thats right. The World is governd much by Self Love, and men have a strong propensity to cut in with those who have hit upon a mine. I am not, thank God, the most contemptible of subscriptioneerors, and have been invited to run a Family Bible — No good man *woud*, and no bad man cou'd supplant you, but either, if equally industrious, eloquent, & Healthy may divide the Business with you. I have but to add, that if you treat me, at the approachg close of our affairs, as both Justice & Gratitude demand, and as I expect that is magnanimously & honorably, you shall find that my friendship has known no ebb.

I set out on my way to Philad. the day after tomorrow.

[To C. P. Wayne] *Dreer Col. HSP.*

[*Dumfries?*] Tues. Morn. Sep. 18 [*1805.*]

Dr Sir — This hour I set off, not without very fervent prayers for such Benedictions of a kind Providence, as may render my exertions eminently beneficial to us both. Let me once more recommend to your kind attentions the Bearer, my friend John Adams — As he is almost an entire stranger in Phila., any little book that you can throw into his hands will be acceptable to him. Expense will constantly meet us on every tack & turn. This can only be successfully combatted by as constant a sale of little Books, not clashing with the great Work. The most saleable little piece that I know of, is Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant.

If you will give the printing of it to Mr. Adams we will as usual divide the profits. 800 or 1000 Copies will do. The plate perhaps may require some little retouching — You have but to furnish Mr. Adams the paper. He will attend to everything else & thereby save you all trouble, except that of sending them to Dr Sir

Your

M. L. W.

The plate, which is mine, is in Mr. Carey's hands — he will deliver it. Inclosd I send Gov. McKeans recommendation of the French Revolution [1] — Many of them will sell — This recommendation will not hinder its progress.

The Clerks Magazine is a very saleable book. N.B. 'tis printed by Cruikshank.[2] Compts to Mrs. W. I wd advise also that you let Mr. Adams print us an almanac. 4000 in number — that is, 1000 for each of the southern states of Virg. N & S. Carols & Georgia. We will divide all the Whole Sales — for it will be impossible to keep account of what few I may give away, or retail. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

Sep. 24 [*1805*] DUMFRIES.

Dr. SIR. . . . Neither your surprise nor your vexation (at seeing me *here*) can equal mine — But tomorrow I start for Winchester. Since my arrival in this Neighborhood I have not been altogether Idle — I have visited 4 of the County Courts & sent you about 300$. And I'll give you my word that setting aside 4 or 5 days on my return I shall not lose *one* day for *seven months* to come. I have been to Balto. & have gotten the books ready for the start, I have also been with the good Judge Washington at Mount Vernon — He thinks as I do, that, "*faint heart never won fair Lady*" — In other words you must not dispair — I have a Grand plan for you — and I tell you seriously & solemnly that if you will but persevere you shall prevail — Besides there is another

[1] *An Impartial History of the French Revolution, from its commencement, to the execution of the Queen, and the Deputies of the Gironde Party.* Listed in *Catalogue of Books, Printed for, and sold by Mathew Carey,* . . . in back of the 10th edition, 1810, of Weems' *Life of Washington.* NYPL. (*Bibliography, title 19.*)

[2] 'Crukshank James, bookseller 87 High' *Philadelphia Directory,* 1805, LC.

work — i.e. the Epistolary Correspondence of Gen[l] Washington which Judge W[*ashington*]. will no doubt give you — Take notice I have to *beg* that you will give me the *whole* Continental Subscriptioneering for this Work, it will stand you in good stead.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 64.

Lancaster. Octob. 18, [*18*]05.

Sir. I expected, agreeably to promise, to have been, e'er this, in Philad[a]. but a cancerous affection on the face of M[rs] Weems, together with the sickness and death of her own worthy Sire, Col[o]. Ewell, have retarded my progress till now. For apology let the above suffice. — But to the point; Often have you, M[r] Carey, "spread for me your feast, and sent around the strength of the shell." For this my Soul has ever felt the Joy that belongs to gratitude and Friendship. But tho' I trust I shall never cease to feel a Joy in secret whenever I think of Mathew Carey and the smiles that brighten[d] his face whenever I enter[d] his dwelling, yet I deem it but duty to remind him of *one fact* which may dispose him at our coming settlement, to do me that Justice which I believe ever to have been your wish. I said that you have been unjust & oppressive *to me* — not *intentionally*, for my abandonment of everything to your Integrity is proof irrefragable that I never even dream[d] you capable of injuring me *intentionally*, but *efficiently*, you certainly have; at least in my opinion. Setting aside every argument already urge[d], let me but recall to your recollection this one incontrovertible Truth — While I was vending Goldsmith's Animated Nature, with a Success that wou[d] certainly have netted me 3000 Dollars you shipp[d] me an immense quantity of miscellaneous books, Religious or irreligious, it matters not. What was the consequence? — Why, in place of clearing 3000 dollars for my Wife & Children, I sunk, of *those books* to an amount so enormous, that after eight years of infinite sacrifices, and of ceaseless slavery & sorrow, I am not yet out of debt. I know that you have been considerate of this, and liberal to me, beyond what many w[d] have done, liberal as to terms and times of payment; and I acknowledge too, that you made me [*a*] generous allowance on that moiety, which I sold, of your first edition of the Bible. But hardly coud any allowance suffice

to cover those numerous and heavy losses which I sustain[d] in attempting to vend your books thro' the medium of those vile Retailers whom my ci-devant Ignorance employ[d]. My predicament, you see, is peculiarly unpleasant. Unfortunate I have been, you well know, but neither you nor I can estimate the extent of my losses, consequently no adequate liquidation can ever be apportion[d], hence every overture *on my* part must wear the appearance of soliciting as a favor, rather than of demanding as a debt.[1] I have, however, to conclude with this remark, viz. I shall be down, I trust on Tuesday, when I shall hasten with great Joy to close this affair forever. I ask of you no more than *Justice;* no more than what your own Moral Sentiment fairly weighing everything, shall pronounce to be right; no more than what yourself may ever hereafter reflect on without a pang. Let something pretty near that point be done, and a liberal allowance be made on Bibles, payable on short & well secur[d] credits, and perhaps in the untimate result " all things may work together for good" to M. Carey & to

M. L. Weems.

Comp[ts]. to M[rs]. Carey.

L. & F. Vol. 64.

Philad[a]. Nov. 13 [*18*]05.

Dear Sir. Yours of the 12[th]. Inst. came *safely to hand;* and agreeably to *request*, therein *exprest*, I now *subjoin*, at least a *line* of sober *sense* in present *tense*. Viz 1[st]. I understand, i. e. intelligo, that M[r]. Carey is to furnish M[r]. [*Wayne?*] with Bibles of such paper, print, price &c, &c. as agreed on by Mess[rs] Carey & Weems —

II. From the retail price of the Bibles aforesaid, M[r]. C. is to *deduct 25* pr Cent.

III. They are to be deliver[d] to M[r]. Weems, free of all loss & cost, at such ports as he shall direct —

4[th]. Mr Wayne is to pay for them in ninety days after shipment.

Your ob[t]. humb. Serv[t] —[2]

[1] 'Carey's traveller to Baltimore [*1805*] received $10 a week, and charged in his expenses stage hire from Philadelphia to Baltimore, $8. The Baltimore sales averaged $150 a week.' *American Book-Trade Bibliography in the XIXth Century*, A. Growoll, N. Y., 1898, p. xiii, LC.

[2] See letter of Nov. 13, 1806.

Mr. Bioren promises that he will furnish, if you chuse *to order*, all orders ordered, at 25 pr Cent discount — Mr. Conrad says he will send over some of his Encycloped. papers, to be sent with your boxes to the diff[*erent*]. ports.

Yours Aff.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

[*Endorsed Nov. 18—1805 Reading.*]

. . . If there be any difficulty in this draft I'll hate a draft hereafter as I do hell fire — Carpenter, the Book binder, drinks too hard — I must have Blair out of such company. I shall thank Mr. Adams to count & take them away. Carpenter shall have them again in the Spring. I told you of 396 Immortal Mento[*r*]s & 46 Paynes, to be brought home to you. please to pay for & receive them. if I die, they are yours, *bind*ᵍ. and *all* — If any difficulty attend this draft let me know by mail to *Carlisle* — I shall send you all my names & monies paid by next. Mr. Adams sold me a little book in *blue papers*, callᵈ "Letters, by the Authoress of Unfortunate Mother's advice to her daughter"[1] send it in [*a*] box to Dumfries. Have me a good supply of books at Alexandᵃ for Fauquier, Culpeper, Lewisburg, Fredericksburg. I believe they are of H[*ymens?*].

Yours Aff. —

Dreer Col. HSP.

Baltᵒ. 29 Nov. [*1805*]

Dr Sir. . . . Why the plague dont you [*torn, keep?*] a book on purpose for entries of monies sent by me? I cant bear to see a cloud of doubt, of fear, or suspicion on the countenance of a Gentleman to whom I am sending monies.

I am often askᵈ whether I can furnish odd 1st Volˢ. — what shall I answer? Geo. Hill still *treats me ill!!* . . .

[1] Probably a later edition of *Letters on different subjects; amongst which are interspers'd the adventures of Alphonso, after the destruction of Lisbon. By the author of the unfortunate Mother's Advice to her absent Daughters.* These are signed 'S.P.,' obviously for Sarah Pennington. The BM. has the second edition, 1767, which I have not seen. I have never found a Mathew Carey nor an Adams edition, though the following advertisement indicates that the former might have published some of Lady Pennington's works; 'Books printed for and published by Mathew Carey . . . Lady Pennington's unfortunate mother's advice to her Daughter . . .' *Delaware & Eastern Shore Advertiser*, Mar. 4, 1795, HU.

Dreer Col. HSP.

Balt°. Nov. 30. [*18*]05

Dr Sir. . . . Hurry on the Books, as for Life — I beggd you to beg John Adams Esqr. to attend to my Blairs in the hand of Carpenter — he drinks too hard — if sober he shall have them again in Spring — I have 400 or 500 2d No. Hymen & 320 Vol. 2d Blair, gatherd &c in Carey's Lumber Store where he carries on his Bible. I will *forever* thank, & in cash will pay *Mr. Adams* liberally if he will find out the Hymen and the Blair & send on the Former to Charleston or Savanna & set the Blair in his paper room till Spring —

Dreer Col. HSP.

Balt°. Dec. 6. [*18*]05

Dr Sir. I sent you night 'fore last $202 &c
Now I send you — 200
Wou'd God I had more books.
See good care taken of my Books —
. . . Why do you enable Mr. Geo. Hill to furnish 10 of my Subs.? However I care not much — Providence can give all enough. but tis hard & mortifying to be & not to be — agent plenipotentiary —

Dreer Col. HSP.

Balt°.!!! Dec. 9 — [*1805.*]

. . . I tried a Forlorn Hope Friday & Saturday at the Point where I made 15 Prisoners. . . .

I shall leave this place day after tomorrow — All the monies from this place have been *my own* M. Conrad settles tomorrow — Volti get several setts, *Elegant*, for Mr. Conrad for his winter chewing —

Dreer Col. HSP.

Balt° 13 [*Dec. 1805.*]

Dr. Sir — Gone, gone, gone! The moment before I got yours, yesterday, I had thrown a letter with 117 Dolls into the Mail. I have from this place sent you 1450 Dolls — Mr. Conrad says he will remit im-

mediately and largely. He stands high here — But if you think proper, you know you can instantly order on to Philad[a] what few books remain on his shelves. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMFRIES. Dec. 25, [*18*]05

D[r]. SIR. . . . I stay here today (Christmas day) and the four days sequent, i.e. untill *Monday* when I shall set out for Alexand[a] & Geo. Town which places I mean to *clear out* before I start for Charleston. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMF. Dec. 31 — [*18*]05

D[r]. SIR, . . . I have not gotten a subscriber for Encyclopedia [1] nor for any other book — Dont be uneasy about Anquetil, I trust I shall do all I promis[d] for you. . . .

As these books will be in port long before I can possibly get there, and therefore will be in no way of use or revenue, I shall expect of Mr. Carey, who is an "Honorable Man," that he will not count on the payment untill 90 days after my arrival there, wh. will be about 40 days after them. Because there was no obligation of Honor, and I am sure none of *prudence* on my part to order the books there untill my arrival, or *even* untill I had receiv[d] orders from Individuals, wh. wd ensure immediate sales.

Mr. C[*arey*]. may consign those sent, to Newburn, to I. [*J.?*] G. Blount, Merch[t]. To John London, Wilmington. Doct[r] Moser Charleston — Doct. Harral Savanna & Doct. Murray Augusta.

Mr. C. charges boxes but our written Doomsday Note, says "no loss nor cost" to me. After receipt of them, I shall have "loss & cost" enough in all conscience. Amen.

[1] Probably Conrad's *Encyclopedia* or possibly Wayne's *Encyclopedia of Wit.*

A FRUIT-RAISER TO HIS SON

Before I'd see you fell
A single cherry tree,
I'd rather have you tell
A hundred lies to me.
— ANONYMOUS.

Dreer Col. HSP.

WILMINGTON [*N.C.*] May 22. [*18*]06

SIR—. . . You will never do any great things in the printing line untill you come most vigorously to adopt my plans. Viz. 1. to take a very large room — 2^{d} print large editions of popular books — 3^{d} make large exchanges & thereby get good assortments. 4th. Let this be done in such a way as to allow yourself large profits — 5th. Let me, or any other Person, establish 1, 2 or 300 very safe & judicious little Book stores throughout these Southern States. These 1, 2, or 300 *very safe*, because *well chosen*, Gentlemen may be vending books & remitting monies at the same time. Under proper management, i e of Books well selected, and store keepers well chosen, I am *very*, *very* sure that immense Good may be done to the Country & Immense profit may accrue to yourself. But I do not wish to persuade you to this matter — And if you can make by the Dry Good commerce 2, or 3000$ per an. and all this in a safe & certain way I really think you ought to embrace the offer. I am very far from wishing to leave you. You have dealt more amiably by me, than has any other Printer, and therefore I am resolved (on principles which to me are pleasurable) to stick by you for some good time longer especially if Gen^{l} M[*arshall*]. & Judge W[*ashington*]. to whom I am agoing to write, will but throw me a few more scraps of their fine Washingtonian fraght. But if you can, *safe & snug*, make 3000$ per An. do it. Tho' I do really think that under a proper management of the 5 points above, great things may be done both for the Country & yourself —

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON, June 5. [*18*]06

Dr. SIR, Since March (the beginning of) I have sent you, as follows from

			1725
Norfolk	921	Newburn	500
Warrenton	654	Wilmington	500
		Do	500
Louisburg	100	do draft on D. Ware	742.70
		Do	100
Washington	50	Do	88
	1725	now Charleston	400
			$4555.70

Thanks to God — may he bring it all safe to hand.

That Louisburg is a Devil of a place. This is the 2d time that I've been in the frights about it —

As to Somerville I am both surprisd & vexd about him. When in Petersburg, as I *told* you before, I cou'd get no settlement with 'im. He was eternally going out to Dinners, to Parties, to concerts & to, the Dear knows what. While of the going to Washington *how*, *where*, or to *whom*, he seemd as ignorant as a Cat — coud. give me no account at all — They had never been enterd on his blotter, or never posted.

From what I saw I concluded, as *you hinted* to me, that things were going badly with 'im. As to the Books I got from 'im, I *saw* them *enter'd* (by his *clerk*) on his Ledger. I am surprisd, *surprisd*, not angry, that *you*, and the good Judge *after* you, shd talk to me about not remitting faster, the monies on hand. Can I remit silver, or North Carolina Proc?[1] In Tarboro, Washington, and Newburn, I was raving for

[1] A species of paper money issued on State authority soon after the Revolutionary War, — many States issued it, but in North Carolina it survived the longest. Current in Petersburg and southern Virginia until absorbed in the early part of the nineteenth century by the Bank of North Carolina. Called proc., i.e., proclamation money, it was issued on bits of thick paper about the size of a playing card, and for various sums, from sixpence up to forty shillings. It was receivable for taxes, and circulated currently in North Carolina and on her borders, at the rate of ten shillings to the dollar; and at that rate the State redeemed all that appeared — a rare instance among the States. See *Richmond in By-Gone Days; being Reminiscences of An Old Citizen* [Samuel Mordecai], Richmond, 1856, p. 215, LC. See also *John Motley Morehead*

Northern notes, and drafts for you. And even at Wilmington, I had like to have been *oblig*^{d} to give 2 pr cent for Philad^{a} paper — Equally just is your complaint that "I left no Alg. Sidney with Somerville tho' he has 34 Sub^{s}" *I was afraid.* Send on 60 copies, neatly directed *thus* — "Mr. Weems — care of Mr. Joseph Harding,[1] Petersburg, Virg^{a}." I'll distribute them as I return in *July*.

Tomorrow I shall answer Judge W[*ashington*]. & try to make him up 100 or 200$. Even his Olfactories will like the better an epistle that's perfum^{d} with money. And as you talk of sending money *after* 'im, I suppose he'd as lieve it sh^{d} come from the South as from the North. I *begg*^{d} you to write to Somerville, Post M. Martinsburg Virg^{a}. to inform a Mr. Ephraim Gaither (a *Sceptic*) that your price of Washington is 3$ boards — 4$ calf & gilt — prithee *write* to him if you have not already done it. The risque of sending money in notes, to my family, is so great, owing to the villainy of this Southern Country, that I had rather you w^{d} be so good as to send it. Please therefore the very day you get this to send "Mrs. Fanny Weems, Dumfries, Virginia" — 50$ post note if possible — I promise you I will not send one cent after you shall assure me that you have done it. N.B. 50$ on the 20th of every month till I tell you to stop —

and the Development of North Carolina 1796–1866, Burton Alva Konkle, Philadelphia, 1922, p. 84, *f.n.*, LC.

[1] A prominent merchant on Water Street; trustee and influential member of the Washington Street Church of Petersburg, Va. (Methodist Episcopal Church, South), whom the great Methodist, Francis Asbury, is said to have called "my affectionate kind adopted son, J. Harding." He died in 1810. See *The Story of a Church, A History of Washington Street Church . . . at Petersburg, Virginia, 1773–1923*, P. H. Drewry, B.A., Petersburg, 1923, p. 53, LC. — We get fairly intimate with Mr. Harding in daily life in the following: 'Being anxious to be nearer to the center of business, I offer for sale, the house and lot where I at present live. The House is large enough to accomodate a large family, having four rooms below and a passage; four above with an entry; having fireplaces in eight of the rooms, a large cellar, with other necessary outhouses — the Lot under a good fence — the payments will be made easy. Any person inclined to purchase, may view the premises by applying to Joseph Harding. Petersburg, Feb. 22.' *Petersburg Intelligencer*, Mar. 6, 1807, AAS.

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON. June 17. [*18*]06

Dr SIR —

On the 7th sent	400
On the 12	300
Now 17	133
This moment to Judge W	400
	1233

I have more on hand but it is of the North Wilmington bark, shall get it changd in a day or two & with such monies as God Almighty may give me, shall send.

I have hardly time to say whether I am alive or dead.

Dreer Col. HSP.

CHARLESTON June 28 — [*18*]06.

SIR. . . . [*torn, You?*] desire me to quicken an answer to the Gazetteer. I have been, with but few exceptions, so generally ill-treated that I have no heart to embark on anything untill this great business of Washington — (I mean my subscriptions now on hand) be settled. This Consummation so devoutly to be wishd will I hope arrive sometime this winter coming. — That adjusted to satisfaction, and you shall command my cooperating exertions — This business has been dispersd into the hands of so many Persons, for whose Punctuality & honor, tho' none can vouch, yet you may look more to me than I shall like perhaps, that I really shall be wretched untill 'tis wound up —

[*M.L.W.*]

'THE HONEST LAWYER. An Anecdote. Glancing an eye over one of your late papers . . . the *death* of George Wythe, Esq. Chancellor of Virginia . . .

M. L. WEEMS.'

Times (Charleston), July 1, 1806, CLS. *Reprinted in part* [*Anon.*], *Raleigh Register* (North Carolina), July 14, 1806, NCSTL. *Reprinted* (from Massie Papers, Virginia Historical Society Mss. Collections) in *Virginia Maga-*

zine of History and Biography, Vol. VI, No. 1, July, 1898, pp. 102–103, LC. *Reprinted*, with an introduction by D. R. Anderson, in *William and Mary College Quarterly*, Vol. XXV, July, 1916, pp. 15–20, NYPL.

The first of these articles called out the following: 'Mr. M. L. Weems, now at Charleston. S.C. has published in the *Times*, two columns of commendatory matter upon the character of the late venerable, and justly lamented *George Wythe*, Chancellor of Virginia. Among other instances of meritorious conduct in that patriot, he adduces the following letter, written by him to one of his clients. We heartily regret that like cases of integrity are not more numerous. ["]*Robert Alexander, Esq.* . . . [*signed*] George Wythe."'[1]

Raleigh Register (North Carolina), Aug. 4, 1806, NCSTL.

[To C. P. WAYNE] *Dreer Col. HSP.*

CHARLESTON, July 17. [*18*]06.

Dr. SIR. . . . My prospects, as to *comfort*, *Health*, *Life* &c are gloomy & unpromising — Even the Natives are afraid to travel thro' the Sultry, infected air of this fenny, loggy dreadful Country. Shou'd anything happen to me, I cherish a hope that you will do Justice to my Poor Widow & children — You owe me money. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

Dreer Col. HSP.

SAVANNAH. Aug. 4. [*1806*]

SIR. . . . In Charleston, thank God, I did something in 6 weeks, 3.000$. The People were in Town. Here I shall not be able to do any thing. Every Body out of town. — Money scarce beyond precedent. I find myself in a very unpleasant situation. 6 months from home, immensely anxious to return — A world of money due in this Country but no chance of completing my collections unless I wait till Octob. &

[1] Of George Wythe, Richard Randolph, the elder brother of John of Roanoke, spoke, in his will, as 'the most virtuous and incorruptible of mankind, and (next to my father-in-law) [*meaning his step-father, St. George Tucker*] my greatest benefactor . . . [*and*] the brightest ornament of Human nature.' *John Randolph of Roanoke*, William Cabell Bruce, Vol. I, p. 105, LC.

November. To go to Virginia & return seems impossible — If I wait till Novemb. but, *dashing about in the interim*, among my Subs in Augusta, Waynesboro, Louisville, Petersburg, Washington, Columbia &c &c. I may complete all my business here. But if I wait here till the middle of Novemb. I see no reason of the pecuniary sort why I may not spend the winter in Charleston, Savannah, Columbia &c. &c. Every dollar, that can be had, will be got & remitted to you. This is all left to *your own determination*. If you see any better way of spending the winter I am your man. If you think it adviseable that I shou'd spend the winter here, you will infinitely oblige me by setting about 5000 or 6000 Almanacs for South Carolina & Georgia. If you have no wish to go in partnership in the matter, you may have them done at *my own risk*. Mr Bioren (as Johnny Adams is engagd at Anquetil) will do them for me. Mr Bioren is a man of *energy*, he will *instantly* get some person to *calculate* for the *latitude* of 33 & 32 (being the latitude of Charleston & Savannah) the sooner he sets about it *the better*. If you cou'd get Judge Washington, who you say is highly pleasd with Anquetil, to say *something handsome* in favor of that work, and recommending it to all his Friends in this Country, as a valuable thing to be put in the hands of their *Sons*, I may, if I spend the winter here, do good things for you. Write to me at Augusta, immediately — I have told Judge W. that he & the good Gen[l] M. must do something in [*the*] way of raising my diurnal salary — charges in this country are immense — by the time I shall have collected my 75,000$ on Washington I shall have reduced my revenue to about 800$ per an. and if I can support a wife & 6 children &c on that sum, I shall do wonders. I told the Judge all this — Billey Douglass, a young Irishman with very slender talents & scanty education gets his 1200$ per an. & all expences paid — . . .

turn over

. . . I have written to Mr Bioren to call on you about yr mind as to the Almanac. If, (as *I think* will be the best we can do) I shd wait here untill I can wind up all the Washington business so long neglected by Murray &c we must have on a large assortment in exche. for your books on hand.

Dreer Col. HSP.
SAVAN^h. Aug. 5 [*1806.*]

SIR. . . . If I spend the winter in this Country *completing the Washington* business & *getting Sub^s* for *Anquetil*, it will be adviseable to send me on a capital assortment of books, exchanges for Sidney & Montague.[1] But in 10 or 12 days I'll send you a list of such books as may answer.

. . . M^r. Carey has sent great numbers of Bibles, very little inferior, and hardly indeed different from *these*, except in red morocco binding, which some consider'd & were polite enough to say were too much in the Scarlet whore of Babylon colour for a Protestant Bible. Those Bibles were but eight doll^s. and Bibles in a good modest Christian dress too, and when I ask^d 12$!!! why they were ready to set the dogs on me. But if you coud get Carey to print a Bible on the same paper (and that not too fair or thick) bound in his Morocco. (i.e Boston particular) *without* his Concordance (a *monstrous large one*) and without his *Maps*, historical engravings &^c. except *two*, Let him print such a Bible at 7$ 200 in number & on 6 or 9 months credit, I can sell them for you. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.
Aug. 17 — [*18*]06
[*Postmarked Augusta Ga. Oct. 20.*]

D^r SIR, . . . I have only to beg that you w^d give yourself no uneasiness about the Industry, or, Honor of . . .

M. L. WEEMS.

Only give the Books, & continue Health & that's all I ask —

I wish to know when Anquetil will be ready — Did you ever agreably to my score of wishes, write to Somerville, P. Master, Martinsburg letting him know & desiring him to notify the price of Washington —

I begg^d you to strike off & send me with all possible dispatch 1500 of my large likeness of Washington — tis for a little pamphlet of the

[1] *Reflections on the Rise and Fall of the Ancient Republicks. Adapted to the Present State of Great Britain. . . .* By Edward W. Montagu, Jun. Philadelphia: Printed and Published by C. P. Wayne. 1806. (*Bibliography, title 251.*)

private & moral sort, supplementary to your large work [1] — I told you & now tell you again that it is my wish that you shou'd participate in the profits of that & of every other little or big work that you [*or*] others print [*for me?*] while our Washingtonian Connexion continues — If on reading, I shou[d] approve of your Tench Biography,[2] I can get as many Sub[s] for that work as for any ever printed in America — I am much a Favorite among that class of People.

Dreer Col. HSP.

SAVANNAH. Aug. 18. [*18*]06.

I am just from the Country where I have laid the foundation for a good deal of profitable work this Fall & Winter. The inclos[d] catalogue of Books is furnish[d] by the Rev[d] M[r]. McWhir [3] of Sunbury, a Gentleman of some property & of the Purest Morals. He has just open[d] an academy in Sunbury to which 50 Youth of both sexes have already repaired. Probably by & by 100. He gives me the offer to supply him with books,

[1] Referring to the fifth edition of his *Life of Washington*, in which Wayne had no part. This edition was 'Re-printed by Geo: F. Randolph' at Augusta, 1806, was entirely rewritten from former editions, and bore a title of somewhat different wording. The text was followed thereafter, except in one German edition, and was the first to contain the anecdote of the cherry tree. In regard to the print here alluded to, it may be assumed that Weems was disappointed, because in the unique copy of this edition extant there is no portrait. (*Bibliography, title 10.*)

[2] 'The inventive Mr. Weems, in his *Life of Benjamin Franklin*, gives a stanza from the second [*The Taking of Teach, the Pirate, 1719*] (which fortunately for Franklin, we know to be by another hand) . . .' *Franklin Bibliography*, Paul L. Ford, New York, 1889, *f.n.* to title 1. Or possibly Weems was alluding to the well-known Pennsylvanian, Tench Coxe.

[3] Dr. William McWhir, of Sunbury, Ga., settled there in 1792, 'where he established his celebrated school far and wide,' and preached to the people as well as conducting the school. See *History of Midway Church*, James Stacy, pp. 234, 239, LC.; also *The Dead Towns of Georgia*, Charles C. Jones, Jr., Savannah, 1878, pp. 212 *et seq.*, LC. — *Ad.* '100 Guineas, I will give . . . a year to a Gentleman of character and abilities, who is disposed to remove to the flourishing and fertile State of Georgia, and engage as an Assistant in my Academy. He must write an elegant hand, be a complete accountant, and well acquainted with the practical branches of the Mathematics. The situation is as healthy as any in this, or perhaps any other state in the Union; an indisputable proof of which is, that my family consists of nearly fifty white persons, and almost twelve months have elapsed since any Physician has been called to visit it. Letters, post paid, directed to me, Sunbury, Georgia, will receive a decisive answer, in less than forty days from their date, if they contain satisfactory proof as to the character and abilities of the applicant. W'm M'Whir. Sunbury, Georgia, April, 1799.' *Columbian Mirror and Alexandria Gazette* (Virginia), May 7, 1799, AAS.

payable as fast as he can collect. Is well content with a commission of 10 pr cent. If you cou'd immediately procure the within nam[d] books, and send them on to Savannah direct, or via Charleston in this latter case, direct to Rev[d] [*blank*] McWhir, Sunbury, care of Messr[s] Rhodes & Otis [1] Charleston, to be sent to Doct[r]. James Ewell, Savanna. If you can get the books in exchange for Sidney, Montague, or Anquetil, so much the better — at any rate send immediately, as M[r] M[c]Whir is in great want of them. I wrote to you 10 days ago begging that you w[d] instantly get John Bioren, (if you cou'd not attend to it yourself) to print me 6000 Almanacks, one half of them, containing Hymen's Recruiting Serjeant, and thereby entitled "The Lover's or Bachelors Almanac." The other containing my dissertation on the Excellencies of a Republic, (printed by John Adams & I believe by John Bior[*e*]n in some late Almanacs) and thence call[d] "The Grand Republican Almanac." [2] You can join me in this little affair, or not, just as you like. Urge M[r] B., or whomever you may employ, to make the greatest possible dispatch. The Legislature of this state will sit in the beginning of Nov. as also will that of S. Carol[a] during my attendance for distribution of Washington, Sidney, Anquetil &[c] &[c] I may distribute a good many almanacs. I wrote to you for 70 full cop Washington — elegant — I think it were better to send at least 100 or 120. If the crops succeed this season, we shall have a great many new Sub[s]. In my last I gave you "And[w] H. Prince" — now John Elliott & John Stephens.

I wish you cou'd instantly print me a 1000 cop. of my Hymen's recruit[g] Serjeant, on a fine paper. Have the plate retouch[d] by Tiebout. — Send 500 to Savannah & 500 to Charleston — I am afraid that my Blairs may injure in your cellar. Cou'd you be so good as to take a look at them and see how they go on — I left three little boxes in care of my friend John Adams, will you beg him to nail them up very strongly & send them on to me to care of Doct[r]. Harall, Savan[h]. Please send them

[1] 'Notice. The copartnership of Bold, Rhodes and Otis expires this day . . . the Subscribers having this day entered into copartnership under the name of Rhodes and Otis as Factors and Commission Merchants, inform their friends and the public in general that they will receive every kind of Produce for sale, and the strictest punctuality and attention will be paid to all orders placed in their hands . . . John Rhodes, Joseph Otis.' *Charleston Courier* (South Carolina), Jan. 1, 1805, AAS.

[2] Advertised in the current newspapers, but no copy has ever been found by me. (*Bibliography, title 187.*)

directly. If they are not quite full, fill them with Blair & Montague. You will take notice that at some few places the Subs. wou'd not, or at any rate, did not pay on receipt of Vol. 1st. more than 4 Dolls. Hence on delivery of 5th. Vol of Atlass they will have to pay one Doll each, which on perhaps 200 names will make a sum worth your attention . . .

Tomorrow morning I start for Augusta. The weather is most terrific. The grave yawns wide & daily takes in Youth & Beauty by the horse-load.

Attend to my Almanacs — to Hymen — and continue to do me only the Just and Honorable as heretofore and if we gee aright in the spring, and you'll get a proper House and go to Work on a large scale you may have *great things* done.

Once more, beg Bioren if you shoud employ him, to drive on with the Almcs. with all his might. I shall by next mail, send the list of courts &c &c let him push the calculations — and the matter for the body of the work. let it be on a good paper. I hope soon to send a good deal of money,

Dreer Col. HSP.

SAVANNA Aug. 20. [*18*]06

SIR. . . . The following books are order'd for the College of Athens,[1] by Major Gen[l] Mitchell [2] a Trustee of the said College, a man of fair fame & *large fortune*, and so high in the public opinion that it is said he can be Governor of the State whenever he shall be pleasd to say the word. . . .

If you can make out to please the Trustees you may have the supplying this growing Institution, with books as long as you shall think proper. The Gen[l] promises to remit the monies as fast as the books shall sell to the amounts of 50 or 100$ — at any rate to pay in a 12 month or thereabouts. The Books to be markd at the current Philads

[1] Now the University of Georgia.

[2] Mitchell, David Bradie, 1766–1837; Major-general of militia, 1804–1809. See *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, Boston, 1904, LC.— Born and brought up in Scotland, nephew of Dr. David Brydie, physician of Savannah, and his heir; studied law there and married a Savannah lady; three times Governor [*1809–1811, 1815–1817*]; died in Milledgeville. See *The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People, 1732 to 1860*, George Gillman Smith, D.D., Macon, Ga., 1900, p. 296, LC.

prices, and deliver'd without risk or cost, and with a discount, if the Gen[l] shou'd desire it, of 10 pr Cent. The sooner that you can send these books, the better. Perhaps you may get a great part or the whole of them in exchange for Anquetil Sidney and Montague. . . .

Abraham ShoeMaker new York calculates for the South Carolina & Georgia Almanacs. The Calculations may no doubt be bought immediately — Indeed if you cou'd by good natur[d] & *great exertions* have the almanac here for me by the 1[st] day of October I sh[d] think myself much indebted. I shall send the *Courts* &c &c &c suited to the States of S. Ca. & Georg[a]. The rest may be going on with all dispatch.

I tell you that the wider I extend my observation the more entirely am I convinc[d] that Infinite Service to the Public, and infinite Emolument to the Private & Prudent Adventurers, will result from my plan of Book vending. . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.

AUGUSTA Aug. 25—[*1806*]

C. P. W. ESQ[r].

CITIZEN SIR — Here have I travell[d] from Savanna thro' fire & water (i.e. Heat & Rain) at the rate of 40 Miles per day, that I might get to the Superior Court of Columbia w[h] sits tomorrow and behold there isn't a Book of the 3 & 4 [*c.qt O?*] and I want no fewer than 30 of 3[d] & 4[th] c.qt. (O). For God's sake send on in a moment. I *wish*, I tell you to wind up all our business *in this country before I quit it.* But I shall run mad unless soon supplied with books. I want *instantly* as follows. 30 of 3[d] & 4 c.q.t — 56 of 3[d] vol. plain, *large* 16 of 3 & 4.c.qt. thin or 2[d] edition and 20 full setts c.q.t. H or O. Send, Oh send on immediately — I had counted to find every thing here *full* & *ready*. My God! When will my disappointments cease! Separated for 15 months from the finest woman & the fondest group of children, and constantly walking over the grave yard of Foreigners, & breathing an infected air, and after all can get no business to do — send no money to you, make none for myself. Tis cruel to throw the blame on me, you knew what books were sent here — why then *send* such quantities of one Vol. & *none* of another. Here are 56 of 4[th] Vol. p[*lai?*][n]. and not one of *3[d] Vol.* The courts are in Session — but no books.

I have occasionally sent you lists of Books orderd by very competent Gentlemen. You will please to recollect that these books are not to be sent on my *risk*. I told you from the start that I was not worth one shilling — and to think of responsibility for such masses of Books were in me madness unparallell'd. Bioren & many others will gladly send books on their *own risks*. But I believe it is express^{d} in our writings that the Books are to be sent at your risk — . . .

Please to attend to my Almanac — to Hymen 5th. edition — Hurry on Washington — And as I order'd 50 Sidney, & 100 Montague — & I hope I shall give a good account of them.

Dreer Col. HSP.

[*N.d. after August 25th. 1806.*]

. . .

Now Citizen W. I cant dismiss the Subject, without reiterating *my request* that you w^{d} make some exertions to get me this Almanac in Charleston & Savanna, by the 1st. of Octob. & *sooner if possible*. As I wish to draw as little money as possible out of your hands, I almost wish you cou^{d} get Carey & the Johnson's to take a good many of my Blairs & send me the amount in Rippon's hymns Watts D^{o}. Newton's D^{o}. Methodist D^{o}. Davies Sermons, Massillons D^{o}.[1] Village D^{o}.[2] Whitfield's D^{o}.[3] Fuller['*s*] (the great Baptist Preacher) Works, viz. his Gospel its own evidence, Gospel worthy of all acceptation[4] — Pilgrim's progress — Baxter's St^{s}. Rest.[5] Call to the Unconverted.[5] Alarm, by

[1] *Sermons*, Jean Baptiste Massillon, 1663–1742. A New York edition listed in *Catalogue of all the Books Printed in the United States . . . Boston . . . Jan. 1804*, in *Book-Trade Bibliography in the United States in the XIXth Century*, by A. Growoll, New York, 1898, LC.

[2] Evidently an earlier edition of *Village Sermons: or, One Hundred and one Plain and short discourses, on the Principal doctrines of the gospel: intended for the use of families, Sunday Schools, or, companies assembled for religious instruction in country villages*. By George Burder. Eight volumes in four. Vol. I. . . . Philadelphia: Published by W. W. Woodward, . . . 1821. HU. A Salem (Mass.) edition is listed in *Growoll* (see note 1 above).

[3] The famous and eloquent Methodist exhorter, George Whitefield, 1714–1770, who left his impress throughout the sea-coast south, planting his seeds so well that that region is still a stronghold of Methodism. The LC. has a 1740 edition of his Sermons, published by B. Franklin. Two other early editions are listed in Growoll (see note 1 above).

[4] 'Fuller's (Andrew) . . . Gospel Worthy of all Acceptation, $1 *Philadelphia* 1805' 'Fuller's (Andrew) Gospel its own Witness, $1 *Philadelphia* 1808' *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, titles 2650, 2651. The LC. has a Boston 1803 edition of the latter.

[5] *The Saints Everlasting Rest: or a Treatise of the Blessed State of the Saints in their*

Allein[1] Herveys Works. Rushe's Medical works[2] — all manner of School Books — Novels by the cartload — particularly Charlotte Temple. M[r] Carey will, I dare say, let me have 2 or 300 of Charlotte Temple. If I have any Tom Paines Political Works, on with them to Savannah — Johnson's Poets, bound in green or in any handsome garb, particularly Milton's Paradise lost — Thompsons Seasons — Young's N[*ight*]. Thoughts wou'd do well. Attend to the edition of Hymen. Be so good as to remember to put it the *5[th] edition*. The different editions have pass[d] unnoticed — Let me do a good deal this Winter, as I am to be from Home let me have something to divert melancholy. Great prospects are before you — if you play your trumps aright —

If you employ Bioren, tell him I conjure him to do his *utmost to have* the Alm[cs]. Hymen's &c. &c. by the 1[st] of Octob. at farthest —

Dreer Col. HSP.

CAMDEN. Sept. 2[d] [*18*]06

SIR.—. . . Make my stay here as profitable to you as possible. Turn Sidney & Montague & Anquetil into *one large box for Camden* of School Books such as Webster Spelling books. . . .

Sidney goes off admirably . . .

enjoyment of God in Heaven. Written by the reverend, learned, and holy Mr. Richard Baxter. Abridged by Benjamin Fawcett, M.A. The Fourth Edition. . . . Philadelphia, printed for William Young, by W. W. Woodward, 1796. HSP. Some editions of this book were 'extracted from the Works of Mr. Richard Baxter, by John Wesley, M.A.'—*A call to the Unconverted, to turn and live, and accept of mercy while mercy may be had*, by the same author. Baxter lived from 1615 to 1691.

[1] *An Alarm to Unconverted Sinners in A Serious Treatise on Conversion*, by Joseph Alleine. The HSP. has an early edition by B. Franklin, 1741. Growoll (see note 1, p. 330) lists an Elizabeth-Town edition.—*Hayden's Genealogies* (p. 351) makes the following statement for which I have never established any foundation: 'Besides the lives of . . . he [*Weems*] wrote or edited a number of other books and pamphlets, viz. "Allan's [*sic*] Alarm to the Unconverted" . . .'

[2] Dr. Benjamin Rush, the famous physician, of Philadelphia. At an early age he 'went to Scotland and completed his medical education in the celebrated school of Edinburgh.' [*Anon.*] *National Intelligencer* (Washington, D. C.), May 6, 1813, LC. See also *Our Whole Country*, John Warner Barber and Henry Howe, Cincinnati, 1861, p. 553, LC.; *Early Philadelphia*, Lippincott, pp. 178 *et seq.*, LC.—Chosen a Vice President of the American Philosophical Society, 1798. See *Weekly Magazine*, Vol. I, p. 31, LC.

Dreer Col. HSP.
Sept. 7. [*18*]06.

Dr. Sir. — . . . twere well if you wd send a good many of a *neat* edition of Chesterfield on Politeness — Bracken's farriery, Carey's small edition — Why did you not print as you promisd your '*encyclopedia of wit*' [1] a little refin'd? I coud sell thousands of it. Send a few if you can now . . .

I have found, and do daily see that an Immensity of Wealth is to be made by my plan which in point of perfect *safety & success*, is capable of proof moral & mathematical. Only let us wind up Washington to my reasonable expectation and then if you'll take a mighty big house for your family upstairs & your store below and print & *exchange stoutly* & lay in such a stock as 14 years experience has taught me to select, and in a few years you may be in clover.

Dont forget my almanacs & 5th Edition of Hymen. They have sold admirably

Dreer Col. HSP.
Columbia. Sep. 12th [*18*]06

. . . Please by *all means* to give our very Urbane & Noble Colo. Wade Hampton [2] a place on the list of Subs for *two* copies. Mem. Colo. *Wade Hampton*, — Do what you possibly can to render my long long absence from home, as productive as possible. . . .

Be sure you print a neat [*edition?*] of Leonidas, the cheaper the better [3] — I shall get some capital Recommendations for it. I wish you to

[1] 'Encyclopaedia of Wit, a choice collection of Anecdotes, Jests, Bon-mots, &c. from the latest British publications, 18 mo. 63 cents Philad. 1817' *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 947, LC. — Advertised in the *True American & Commercial Advertiser* (Philadelphia), Nov. 15, 1804 *et seq.*, HU.

[2] Col. Wade Hampton, 1754–1835; in War for Independence; representative from South Carolina in Congress 1795–1797, 1803–1805; Major-general in War of 1812; retired to plantation in South Carolina, 1814. See *The Twentieth Century Biographical Dictionary of Notable Americans*, Boston, 1904, LC. — A Trustee, University of Georgia, 1801–1811. See *A Historical Sketch of the University of Georgia*, A. L. Hull, Atlanta, 1894, LC.

[3] The following possibly applies, since Wayne was the publisher of the *Encyclopedia of Wit.*: *Ad.* 'New books. Thomas & William Bradford, booksellers, . . . Glover's Leonidas, 2 vols. 7th edition with plates. . . . Encyclopedia of Wit, . . . November 13.' *True American & Commercial Advertiser* (Philadelphia), Nov. 15, 1804 *et seq.*, HU. — Weems wrote to Jefferson, asking for a recommendation that *Leonidas* should be reprinted in America. See letter of Jan. 1, 1814.

exchange Montague largely but for *good* books. Get a great many, say 500 of N. Websters Spellg books best editions, you ought to have them at 2$ pr doz. or a very little more.

Send 100 Montague to Augusta & 100 to Camden & 50 to Columbia. SOONER the BETTER —

Dreer Col. HSP.

AUGUSTA. 20 Sep. 1806

Dr. SIR —. . . As to Conrad's Encyclopaed you were acquainted with that circumstance & are to have a *moiety*, but I have not recd 10 Subs. for it is impossible to attend to everything at once. As to Boxes shippd to me in wh you "have no concern," I desird Bioren to send an Assortment to a Mr Cook [1] Fredericksbg. I know of no other boxes but what have been ordered on joint ac/t — I did not call on *you* for increase of Diurnal salary. I spoke to Judge W[*ashington*]. I hope & expect that he & Genl M[*arshall*]. will do me something. Attend to my Almanacs & Hymen. Desire Mr. Adams to send, well *securd* my little boxes left with him — Send to Augusta — Do what you can to render my Winter profitable.

[*Unsigned.*]

Dreer Col. HSP.

AUGUSTA. Sep. 30. [*18*]06

SIR. . . . From your Phillipic I have but, *cursorily* & *hastily*, to observe, that, the first impression is *every thing*. Had we set out *right* we shoud never have gone *wrong* — But by starting with as many different bindings as there are colours in the changeful rainbow, or patches in Josephs coat, you have thrown everything into confusion. And because I do not choose to take all the blame to myself you are pleasd to be displeas'd. I am willing to believe that I am somewhat in fault, tho' perhaps had my advice for months before the work was put to press, been duly attended to, nothing of this sort wd ever have happend.

[1] Adam Cooke, of Fredericksburg, advertised the sixth edition of Weems' *Life of Washington* (Cochran, Philadelphia, 1808) in the *Virginia Herald* (Fredericksburg), May 10, 1809, LC.

However — "*Whatever is, is right.*" I cou'd, on a *moral certainty*, make a fortune for any man who coud keep me in book blast, I mean SCHOOL BOOKS chiefly — But since you wish to decline it, I shall never urge another argument to overcome your incredulity — You talk of my following so many plans & books for *Conrad* &c &c. I tell you that I have not gotten 10 Subs & those altogether by accident — and I told you of that affair before I engagd in it, and you know that it was understood as a thing *en passant*, of which you were to have a *moiety* of the profit — You talk of my castle building & ordering books in which you have no interest — I told you that to the best of my recollection — I ordrd but one box from Bioren to a Mr. Cook of Fredericksburg. Whether he ever sent it or not I know not — The *names* I sent are new Subs — You say if I will but do you Justice in Washington, Montague &c &c. It will suffice me, if, at the closing our accounts, it shall be found that you render the Justice that you will receive from

M. L. WEEMS.

Dreer Col. HSP.

AUGUSTA. Octob. 11 — [*18*]06

SIR. . . . I wrote to you, requesting as a very great favor that you wd instantly get from Mr. Carey my plate of the large likeness of Washington and retouchd if necessary, and strike off 1500 Copies & send them on immediately by *water*, if you can't send them very cheap by mail. Be so good as to desire Bioren & Adams to send me on immediately my Hymen & Almanacs, INSURED. I want 600 Hymens sent to Augusta — 400 to Charleston. All the Almanacs to Augusta. It *is now*, and *ever has been* my wish that you shou'd be Jointly concernd in the profits & losses of everything publishd at my request since we were concernd. I had no other idea with respect to Alg. Sidney. You may send all the Alg. Sidney to Augusta, except 80 setts to Charleston & 80 to Savanna. I want to get thro' the whole before I see you. The moment that the Books come, you may look for large remittances. . . .

When will Anquetil be ready?

[To Mathew Carey] *L. & F. Vol. 67.*

Augusta. Octob. 20. [*18*]06

Dr Sir — . . . I say, if you chuse to send those Bibles observe at *your own cost & risk*, as usual, and if I *live*, of which there is no great question at this time, you shall assuredly recieve your monies in 60 or 90 days from the moment I lay hands on them. I shall ask but 20 pr cent — & of this I purpose to give a moiety as before — Thro' my *own* & the hands of my Co-Adjutants, Mr. Wayne has reciev'd about 40,000$ in the course of two years. He wd have receivd a good deal more, had he not thwarted & checkd me much by not sending Books as he ought, to meet me at such & such towns — Hence we have had some bickering, as you & I, on the same account perhaps, have had, before now — But I know myself to be as I always was, *poor* & Honest, God help me! If you chuse to send, well & good — But what you do do quickly — The Legislatures of Georgia & South Carolina will sit till the 15– & 20th of Decemb. And if you chuse to meet me at Columbia S. Carolina. with about 1000 or 1500 Dolls worth of your *handsomest* Books, *Histories*, *travels*, *new Novels*, new *Political Works*, Farrieries, Cookeries, Elegant Maps, &c.c.c. all *beautifully* bound red, green & every showy flashy colour, I have no doubt but I shall be able to make you a good *remittance*.

If you send, let them be put up in two or 3 boxes to open like oysters thus two rows in each lid, & each box with a couple of coarse iron hinges & a plain lock. I can thus open & shut them at once in the State house where I mean to display them.[1] — I shall ask but 20. pr Cent — You at all risk & cost — I see the coasts of El Dorado, ahead —

Love to Mrs. C. & family —

You are heartily welcome to shew this to Citizen C. P. Wayne.

[1] 'He had a two-horse Jersey wagon, covered, but without springs, except that the seat swung on leather; into his wagon he had fitted a bookcase, so arranged it could be taken out, placed on the ground and opened to display the books without disturbing them.' *Hayden's Genealogies*, p. 351, lc.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Augusta. [*Oct.*] 26 [*18*]06

Dr. Sir. . . . Oh that the Books wd but come. You say you'll give me a copy of Montague in sheets for every new Subr to Washington, after 4000. Put it for every new Subr after the 1st day of Octob. inst. and I shall thank you. You shd remember that you put Anquetil at less than 20$ bound. I started it to [*sic*] 22.50. With that advance you had no business of right, but you insist on half, which if I get you 4 or 500 Subs will make up a sum of many hundred Dolls. But this and many other things that I cou'd start, are never thought of by you when you get into your scolding mood. And then you can pray to God that I may do you *Justice*. You ought to be tired of that talk. I have had it in my power to deny you Justice to my complete Aggrandisement. But so far from withholding your money that [*sic*] by the Great Lover of Truth you owe *me* money. Well only send on the books & we shall soon wind up, and then 'twill be seen who owes. I have exiled myself from the Dearest Family on earth with the view of getting & distributing the 5th Vol. & Atlass. I hope you'll send them on soon. . . .

Numbers will not subscribe for Anquetil unless they see Washington Complete. They rip & tear prodigiously. 'Tis well that I can talk a little. . . .

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 67.

Augusta. Octob. 27. [*18*]06

Dr Sir — I wrote to you a few days ago informing that I cou'd sell for [*you*] a good many Red Morocco Bibles & some other books — during my attendance on the Legislatures of the States of Georgia & S. Carolina. I told you that, tho', (I *believe*) very *honest* yet I am not quite rich enough to encounter losses, and therefore must run no risks in those books. If in the boxes sent to Augusta (to care of Doctr. Murray) you can send 20 cheap copies of Josephus and a dozen cheap copies of the best system of Ecclesiastical or Church History I can certainly sell them for you, also a *good many* of your edition of Braken's farriery, and *Chesterfield on Politeness* & Charlotte Temple.

In my last I gave you directions relative to places, modes, &c &c of sending.

What thou dost *do quickly*.

[From Carey] *L. & F.*
Nov. 12, 1806.

. . . Above all things I must not be [*harassed?*] by never ending complaints. You have the best of luck so unless I am miserably disappointed you shall have the same kind of article continued . . .

[To C. P. Wayne] *Dreer Col. HSP.*
Nov. 13. [*1806.*]

I promis[d] you that the whole of my Negociations with M[r] Carey in this affair of the bible, sh[d] be committed to black & white.

That mode had been agreed on by M[r] Carey & Myself, and correspondently with that compact I rec[d] the inclos[d] from M[r] Carey, to which I instantly responded verbatim & literatim as follow. Volti.[1] . . .

Dreer Col. HSP.
Savannah, Nov. 26. [*18*]06

D[r]. Sir. . . . that I may send you large remittances & that I may send myself out of this dreadful Country where there is hardly any thing heard day or night but Alarms & Rumours of Insurrection.

I send you 50$.

[*Unsigned.*]

Dreer Col. HSP.
Aug[t]. Nov. 27[th]. [*1806.*]

Please to mind what I say — On the 5th May I go to a great Camp Meeting — on the 10[th] to another Camp Meeting of the South Carolina Legislature. On the 16[th] to a 3[d] Camp d° of the Georgia Legislature — on the 31[st] to the *First commencement* at the Georgia Colledge. Thence I shall push on with letters from Judge Washington to the large towns in the Interior of South & N. Carolinas, to Virginia. This

[1] For letter mentioned and repeated here by Weems (*but not given above*), see under date of Nov. 13, 1805.

will take me some time *profitably laid out*. So that you see, I mean *to begin my distribution business* at Balt^{o} &^{c} &^{c}. If you ask "Shall I send to Savanna & to Charleston?" I answer in the affirmative. But *mark me well*. I will not be responsible *for a single Vol. sent to any but myself*. But notwithstanding this, let me tell you that if the Books were my *own*, I declare to God I w^{d} not be afraid to send on 300 Vol. *elegantly bound*, to Doct^{r} P. Moser Charleston, and 200 to Doct^{r} Geo. Harral. Savannah Doct^{r} Harral is Just as good as the Bank — and as to Doct^{r} Moser he is Just as safe as any Man *in all Philadelphia*. My Friends here all advise me to get away as soon as possible after the setting in of the hot weather. And as it matters not at which end of the chain I begin to distribute, especially as in passing along I shall be very advantageously employ^{d} in smart towns, e.g. Halifax, Newburn &c &c, in rich neighborhoods, and in distributing Papers to Competent Aids &c. You'll take notice that in all my operations, I keep an eye, yes, *both eyes*, on your Interest because yours involves *my own*. If my remittances, & your own & the large Collections of Brother Ormrod can but keep you agoing till the 2nd. Vol. appears, then God willing, you shall see a Cataract of Dollars pouring into your pockets. Advise how you like my getting bills of exchange. Think of Barrow & do more. Speak to the Bishop &c &c I tell you once more that if the books were *my own* I w^{d} *not hesitate a moment* to send 300 elegantly bound to Doct^{r} P. Moser Charleston, & 200, d^{o} to Doct^{r} Geo. Harral Savannah. The Am^{t} w^{d} be 2000$ wh. they w^{d} remit in 3 weeks after receipt. But tho' I believe them as *safe* as *property can* be in *any human hands*, yet I will *not be responsible*.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 67.

Augusta, Dec. 2^{d} [*1806*].

Sir, I already regret that I ever troubled you with raking anew the old ashes of this Book-business. The old way is coming again. I told you that if you w^{d} pay & defray all costs risks &c concomitant, I w^{d} for a moderate Commission vend you[*r*] books — at least w^{d} give you my best exertions thereto, if you w^{d} but send me a *pretty popular* Collection to Augusta & Columbia during the *Sessions of the* Legislatures of the *two States*. And here, instead of sending the books with the rapidity

of a Lightening flash, you take the Dear knows how much time to ponder about the *safety* of the thing. Now I fear the books will not be here in time to meet those markets — I told you to send me, if *perfectly agreeable* some elegant Morocco Bibles — You are going to send me of other bindings — I begg[d] you to send me to Augusta *20*, I now say 40, or 60, or 80 copies Josephus History of the Jews — also 20 Copies Sacred Biography. I see but one Josephus!! thus I see very little done on my plan! — *nothing done* on my plan! and yet you are beginning already to talk about remittances. See here Citizen Carey, — *I love you.* I've had a hell of a time in your service that's certain — but I believe you *honest*, I believe you generous & noble, I *love you* — But I'll be no slave. Such I certainly shall be if I suffer to be sent to me *books* of *sorts*, & at *times* different from my orders. With Bibles, Josephus, Sacred Biography (Hunters) [1] & the last Sacred History I coud do *great things*. When the books come I'll do the best I can for you. But send no more than what you have already shipp[d] — untill you hear from me. Treat me with *respect*, and if I *quit* Wayne, (a thing very likely, for the young man has set me down for a Fool from the moment we met) I may perhaps put you into a way of doing good things, but, mind, I'll be no Slave, which as I said, I *certainly shall be*, if disregarding *my choice*, you are to chuse for me. Dont write to Savanna, but to Augusta.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Augusta. Dec. 13. [*18*]06

. . . Don't indulge any fears about my Industry when I can get Books, nor about my Fidelity when I can get Money. I have told you a thousand times that I w[d] have nothing to do with the Agents final treatment of you, tho' I verily believe that Moser, Haral, Murray, Pope &c &c are most excellent men. but as to the monies I receive by subscription or for *Books* if they are not all properly accounted for when

[1] From this time on, Weems constantly urges upon Carey the reprinting of the *Sacred Biography: or the History of the Patriarchs*, by Henry Hunter, D.D., but I have never discovered that Carey acquiesced. Though in the interim Weems may have been selling other editions, the one with which he had most to do was probably that of Edward Earle, Philadelphia, 1818 (*Bibliography, title 253*). But it would appear that Carey actually sent to Weems a rather elaborate prospectus, with specimen engravings, though not following these up, so far as I can find, by an issue. See letters from 1814 on.

we come to settlement then 'twill be time enough to find fault. You seem to brag of it as a great thing that you have committed but "ONE ERROR." Why, Citizen, to *me* & to *Moser* and *others* who have seen what ripping & tearing, what damning & blasting have sprung from this *one error*, a plea of that sort seems like an apology to a Man for giving him but one stab thro' the lungs. Well let us now come to this conclusion never to say another syllable about the *Past*. Do you *furnish books*, and with Gods help I'll furnish money. A great deal depends on your sending on the 5th Vol. I may collect every thing due, and may get a great many subscribers for Anquetil if that be done, without it, not much. . . .

Finding that you wd send no miscellaneous books I wrote to M^r. Carey, but desir'd him to shew you the letter — or that I was very willing that he shoud do so. And in consequence of the total cessation of your business here (for 8 weeks at least) for lack of your books I desird some small affairs to be printed. As I have told you a thousand times you may take an equal interest in them, or a deduction REASONABLE shall ever be made of my Quotidian.

[To MATHEW CAREY] *L. & F. Vol. 68.*

AUGUSTA. Dec. 28 [*18*]06.

SIR. Tis a confounded thing M^r. Carey that two Gentlemen, who, if they cou'd but come to a fair understanding, might do more business than any two others agoing, shou'd yet be so eternally at heads and points. Why can't I be heard? Why can't I get the books I want? I cou'd sell 50 copies of *Josephus*, and 20 or 30 of Hunter's Sacred Biography if I had them. I have 20 of Josephus *engag^d* — You tell me of 15 or 20 pr Cent. That you shou'd mention this astonishes me on two accounts, inasmuch as it reflects both on your Generosity & Recollection. You ought to recollect that we parted but because you w^d not allow me more than 25 pr cent. Bioren offers & has often given me 33 1/3. And W^m. Durell of N. York offerd me the same. That you sh^d offer 15 & 20 is marvellous. But a failure of memory were nothing if this affair did not bespeak a lack of that Virtue which I have often thought so characteristic of M. Carey. Wayne gives me a dollar pr day while I

attend to his business *solely*. For every day that I neglect him to attend to your interest I forfeit a dollar. This forfeiture which will often occur, accompanied with many others wou'd nearly annihilate all that I shou'd make on 1000 Dollars sold for you. Let me say, & repeat, that if we cou'd come to a fair understanding, and in case Wayne & myself *shou'd part*, which I think not unlikely, we might do Great things. But I will not be muzzled — mind that — I must have better wages than 15 & 20 pr cent & I must have the Liberty (*infinitely important to both of us*) of choosing such Books as I know will do credit to my sales & give pleasure to your feelings. But I don't want — nay, I beg you *not to send me another book* untill these already sent are sold & the monies remitted to you. I have a *grand scheme*, wherein if properly supported I coud, assuredly do great things. I tell you I shou'd be guilty of suicide & domicide were I to take 15 & 20 pr cent. Had I 40 of the Red Morocco Bibles here at this instant I cou'd sell them all in 4 weeks.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Augusta. Dec. 28. [*18*]06

Sir—. . . We are going on very unpromisingly — Instead of attending to keep me in regular supplies of Books you seem to think of nothing but *doubting*, *distrusting*, & *wrangling*. I have indeavord several times to put you *in mind*, (for you will not think of it *yourself*) that *time was* when I *might* have been dishonest to you to some good purpose to myself. Can you say or even *think* that I avail'd myself of that opportunity? — Now that this grand transaction is nearly *two thirds over*, is it not rather too late in the day for me to meditate deception? I had counted on receiving 400 Montague. By your own account I've got about 90. I wrote, for Heavens sake to send on Sidney — t'other day by the veriest accident I found a box in the lumber house of a Gentleman at Columbia! Sent thither without any notice given me, by Captain Tucker of Norfolk. At Columbia had I had them I cou'd have sold an *immensity* of *Montague* — The Books never got up here till the 20th of December!!! If you *continue your doubts*, Doct^{r} Murray shall attest the truth of my assertion. Whether it be from my want of perspicuity in expression or from your want of Candour in construction, but certain

it is that one *continued* & most unfortunate misprision has been made almost ever since our connexion. Early in the season two years ago I wrote to you that, "*now, as we had time before us we wd print an Almanac*" — but mentioning by the *same mail* to John Adams to print it; i,e, (as I meant & dreamt of nothing else) to print it *for us*, you took up the notion that I was *guilty of deception*. And bor'd me with it in a dozen letters. By sending those Almanacs so late & to Persons never mention'd to you, (*Bacot* [1] among the number) that [*sic*] I lost I dont know how much. In August last I wrote to you [*about*] an Almanac which I hop^{d} w^{d} be here in Nov. — but only about one half have yet got to Savannah. I suppose that nearly one half of this edition will, as to the Kalander be lost. — You agreed to give me *a dollar* pr day. On our *first* settlement on that score which was perhaps for ½ a year I gave up about *one third* of the time. You cannot but recollect it. I *told* you & *have told* you a dozen times that at our final settlement you shall find me dispos^{d} to do you even more & better than common Justice & yet you will continue to bore me on this head. If you wou'd but send on the 5th Vol. that I might distribute & be done you w^{d} make me immensely happy. . . .

[*Unsigned.*]

[1] Thomas W. Bacot, postmaster, Charleston, S. C., Jan. 1, 1794 (first return) — 1820+. See *P.O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 120–121, P.O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.

We have not yet learned in this country to distinguish sharply between the original evidence and the subsequent commentaries. — SYDNEY G. FISHER.

[To MATHEW CAREY]

L. & F. Vol. 68.

AUGUSTA. Jan^{y}. 31, [*18*]07

D^{r}. SIR. This is Saturday, and the books did not get here till Tuesday last!!! In about 3 weeks the Superior Courts of this County will commence their Sessions. I purpose to go around with the Judges & Lawyers from Court to Court & trust that by the time I leave Georgia, which I hope will be in all May, I shall be enabled to give a pretty good account of the *Majority* of your books.

Had I 3.000 Dolls of such Books as I cou'd name, I have not the shadow of a doubt but I should sell every man of 'em in 9 weeks. If you have not already done it, send me INSTANTLY INSTANTLY 30 Or 40 Josephus, 20 Hunters Biography, 20 or 30 Red Morocco Family Bibles, 20 pocket Bibles, 100 Principles of Politeness, 50 Charlotte Temple, (the $\frac{50}{100}$ edition if possible —) 50 of Braken's farriery, 10 secret history of St Cloud[1] I tell you that if I shou'd leave M^{r}. Wayne, which by the bye I do not know yet, and you will but let *me* chuse the books I am as certain as I have my being that I can *clear you* 2000 Doll^{s} pr an. But you are a man that will have your own head in everything which has ever been the ruin of

Yours

M. L. WEEMS.

Best wishes to M^{rs}. C. & the Family. I've told you a thousand times about those *villainous* [*covered by seal*]. The Hunters Biography you sent, was snatch^{d} at in a moment, but on opening, it was found disfigur^{d}

[1] *Ad.* 'New publication, just received at S. Pleasants' Book-store, . . . an entirely new and interesting work, entitled The Secret History of the Court and Cabinet of St. Cloud . . . July 4.' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), July 5, 1806 *et seq.*, AAS. See also *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 504, LC.

with *proof sheet pages!!!* & some pages hardly touch[d] with ink at all at all!!!

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Feb. 10. 1807.

. . . after what has passed so very recently I cannot justify myself in complying with your directions. I believe you incapable of being made, by any experience or any admonition, a man of business. After seducing me into the folly of consigning so large a property as I have forwarded to you, to write me letters in so indecent [*and shocking a?*] style, is treatment my soul revolts at. My connexion with you has been from its earliest contract, a source of chagrin, vexation & loss. But I had hoped that you would have profited by experience, and that our present dealings might compensate me for a part of what I have suffered by you. I have discovered my error, I am chastened for my folly, I submit to my punishment. But I shall [*seek?*] no new punishment.

L. & F. Vol. 68.
Augusta. March 1. [*18*]07

Sir, . . . Not untill 4 weeks ago did your books reach Augusta. Since which time I've been so obedient to other calls of prior date & obligation that I have hardly had it in my power to attend to your business — I shall now have more leisure — I feel as an injurd man.

L. & F. Vol. 68.
Edgfield — near Augusta March. 23 [*18*]07.

Sir . . . I begg[d] M[r]. Wayne (since you did not do it) to send me 24 or 30 Copies of Josephus, for as *many Subscribers*. If he have *not* done it I wish you wou'd send on that number *instantly* to Savannah to care of Doct. Geo. Harall. . . .

As you will have to call on M[r]. Wayne Please tell him that I am dunn'[d] every day by Sub[s] for " Montague on the Ancient Republics," but he need send no more than 50 as I shall leave this Country the last of May. The above box *can't be here too soon*. Wou'd God I had them now I cou'd sell them in a few days. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 68.

AUGUSTA — [*Received April 8* — [*1807.*]

SIR.

Once, I sent you 120
again ½ note — now 2d ½ 100
Now 404

But I beg you to send instantly a *post note* of 100$ directed to Jesse-Boy Weems Dumfries. Virga. That 100 is mine. And my little son & his Mother & sisters want it. . . .
Please send that post note directly to Jesse Boy Weems Dumfries Virga.[1] I'll sell what I can for you, consistently with my duty to Mr. W[*ayne*]. which as *you know* is of prior claim. I don't think I am capable of doing an unjust action, nor of being idle. But I must be paid for my Honesty & Industry. I did not ask you 25 pr. Cent but 20 and that was little enough.

L. & F. Vol. 68.

Apr 20. 1807. AUGUSTA

SIR. . . . Mr Waynes Books are come, just come. His claims to my attention (no secret to you) will not allow me for some time at least to do much on your behalf. — I shall in 3 weeks fall to work again. Perhaps, (notwithstanding the books are not at all to the taste of the Country) I shall make up my sales to 2000$ — I speak with allusion to the shortness of my time here, which will close in 6 weeks from this date — Had I books of my own chusing — and the only reason I did not make out a list, was that the amount propos[d] (1000 or 1500$) seem[d] so small as to render it almost impossible to go amiss in the choice. I have made out a good Assortment for a Gentleman of character in Columbia S. Carolina. To Chester it seems impossible to send, for lack of opportunities — no communication between Augusta & Chester. As I shall probably return to this Country in Autumn, it might be well to lodge them in safe hands which I can easily do for you, you can, if you think proper, give directions. You know I wrote but for 1000 or 1500 — to

[1] 'Rec[d] at Dumfries 27th April 1807 from Timothy Brundige one hundred dollars, enclosed him by Mr. Mathew Carey of Philadelphia for my son Jesse Weems by request of my husband M. L. Weems — Fanny Weems.' *Mathew Carey Account Books*, AAS.

sell 2000 in 8 weeks was not very bad — especially as I had other business to attend to, and had, as I said a collection by no means such as *I cou'd order.*

With such a Collection & vigorously kept up, living wages & no wrangling, I coud vend a great deal. I mention[d] 20 pr cent — I can't bear 15 —

L. & F. Vol. 69.
AUGUSTA Apr. 21. [*18*]07

SIR. . . . I hope, notwithstanding my many prior engagements of which you were not ignorant, to vend at least 2000 of the quantity sent. The ballance I shall *abide your instructions* to do the best I can with, before I leave this Country which will be in 6 weeks. You often offer'd me 25 pr Cent. I ask[d] but 20 — You sent me three times the quantity I desir[d] and on part of that allow[d] me but 15 pr Cent, and because I scold about such an excise business you have repeatedly written to me in terms which a good natur[d] man w[d] hardly throw at a Slave. I set my own slaves free, and I hope that God will never allow me to be the Slave of Another.

With this I conclude. . . .

Did you send the 100$ to Jesse Boy Weems. [*Written on the outside of the letter.*]

L. & F. Vol. 69.
SAVANNAH. May 9. [*18*]07

SIR. . . . I am now, as I always gave you to expect & understand, wholly, solely, & tetotally absorb[d] in Wayne's business. I expect however as I promis[d] you to vend at least 2,000 Dolls of your books before I leave this Country (I mean Georgia) which will be in about 5 or 6 weeks. I shall then come on & as far as Philad[a]. where I shall see you.

Dont send another book unless I shou[d] desire it of you — Next week I shall give you a letter. . . .

I'm getting to be immensely particular.

L. & F. Vol. 69.

SAVANNAH. May. 24. [*18*]07

SIR. . . . You ask me to write you fully. I am not disengag[d] from M[r]. Wayne but tis likely I shall be on winding up this heavy Washingtonian affair which probably will be soon. I am not in my element, tis chiefly the best Religious Work Moral & Political (i.e. Republican) Books that I wish to circulate. ergo in this History of Washington I *feel* no great interest. It is not half so moralizing & Republican as my own of which by the by I publish[d] here this winter and have nearly sold off the whole impression 1500 copies (of a 5th edition improv[d]. without frontispiece) at half a do[llr].

Wayne has no stock — and has met with such disappointments in this affair of Washington — gave so much for it — got so few sub[s]. in comparison of what he expected. I obtained more than Ormrod & all his Post Masters & Aids throughout the Continent, put together, and yet my muster roll made short of 4000 — such vexatious delays from mismatchings — defalcations of Subscribers &[c] &[c] that I don't think he will do much more at the printing business. Be that as it may, of which I shall know this fall I can in the interim do you much service. With education & capacity perhaps, equal to the generality of money making Lawyers I embark[d] 16 years ago in the laborious business of vending books — I acted on principle. I have never made much — owing to want of knowledge of Men & business. I am getting knowledge & therefore money. I am sure — very sure — *morally* & *positively* sure that I have it in my power (from my universal acquaintance, Industry & Health) to make you the most Thriving Book-seller in America. I can secure to you almost *exclusively* the whole of the business in the middle & western parts of all these Southern states from Maryland to Georgia inclusive. I can push your books not only into many of the Colleges, & most of the smaller seminaries of learning, but into almost every Congregation of Christians, whether Baptist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, as also into the private libraries of Doct[rs]. Lawyers & Divines. *I speak the words of soberness.* My head is white & my blood cool; and I am no longer the credulous Romantic & therefore imprudent & unprosperous Character that I formerly was. Let me know (by letter immediately to Augusta) whether you are willing to support a plan that will assuredly

succeed. I have engag[d] for you the hearty aid of two of the *best* & *safest* men in all this Country — The Rev[d] M[r]. Holcombe[1] & Cap[tn]. Meriweather. The first is of Savannah. An eminent Baptist Preacher, *unblemish[d]*, *influential* & *wealthy*. He sold a good many of your Bibles formerly. Capt[n]. Meriweather[2] is of Louisville — of *establish[d] character & rich*. They will want about 1500$ each. I can make up about 500$ to each, from the former stock, which was not of the right sort; and I can send you a new list of 1000 to each, of the *proper books*, *rapidly saleable*. As times are getting dull now in Philad[a] I can put you into a way of turning a vast number of your Books into cash. Don't send any more books to me — I leave this Country in 6 weeks.

L. & F. Vol. 69.

SAVANNAH. June 19. [*18*]07.

SIR. Inclosed I send you [*blank*] making in all — 1400. The cause of sending so little is my confinement to the business of M[r]. Wayne for whom in 5 weeks I've been able to raise but *eleven hundred Dolls.* owing a good deal, tho, to accident. In a few weeks I shall leave this port & proceed to the Westward whence I hope soon to give you better remittances. You have repeatedly spoken to me about prosecuting the business. I now sit down to talk to you on that subject, — When I think of the thousands of square miles with their immense population lying between Philad[a] & Savan[a]. I cannot but mourn that I do *so little*, so *nothing at all* in comparison of what might be done by prudent & vigorous measures. On so vast a surface what a mere point can the most industrious Individual cover, hinder'd as he ever will be by so many obstacles of bad roads, bad weather, high freshes & the Dear

[1] Dr. Henry Holcombe, 1762–1824, a Virginian, and Revolutionary officer. A leader among the Baptists in Georgia. Ordained in 1785, later called to Savannah. Originated the Georgian penitentiary system and was active in the founding of the Savannah Female Orphan Asylum. A leader of the movement for denominational education. Later called to Philadelphia. See *A History of the Baptists in the Southern States East of the Mississippi*, B. F. Riley, D.D., Philadelphia, 1898, LC. See also *History of the Baptist Denomination in Georgia:* Compiled for the *Christian Index*, Atlanta, 1881, LC.

[2] James Meriwether of Louisville, Georgia, rendered accounts to both Weems and Carey for merchandise, books and shipments by freight of books to Savannah and thence to Louisville by waggonage. *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 23, AAS.

knows what. To say nothing of Tenasse Kentucky &c, there are from Maryland to Georg[a] inclusive nearly 300 Countries all easily and cheaply accessible by water & waggon. Think of the extent & population of 300 large Counties — think, again, that in each of these Counties there are several Gentlemen as honest, methodical & cautious, and much more wealthy than our Friend Brundige — think of all this & say what might not be done by placing in each of these counties a *small parcel only* (say but 200$ worth) of choice books — some of absolute necessity as *school books*, & others, for ancient & venerable fame, as saleable! If, as some say, two to one is odds against the Devil, to what advantage must he play who has 300 to one in his favor? But all Rhetoric of this sort is unnecessary to a Person of your professional skill. All you want is a guarantee of the good result of the experiment. Here I agree we have no great cause to be very sanguine from our *former trials*. But however it may awaken the sigh of your bosom, it does not discourage *me* in the least, for I am just as certain as I am of the existence of my Maker, that our disappointment was not the result of error in *re* but *in mode*. You, in dashing thro the Country in the *stage*, made your elections in too great haste perhaps — while, as to myself, I candidly own that I started with the egg shell of inexperience on my head. Constantly lecturing on philanthropy I came to think too favorably of others; and an early Liberator of my Slaves,[1] I, instinctively felt attached to Republicans. Hence I became the easy Dupe of honest weaknesses, It never once occur'd to me, that a Printer who bawl[d] and bawl[d] for *Liberty*, like a Mullen, or a Prentiss, cou'd be a Rascal. And the man who "smil'd & smil'd" and invited me to dine appear'd far too good to be capable of cheating me. But those days & delusions are all gone. I now require so many attributes in the man for my purpose that I may fairly conclude that He in whom they all concentre can hardly be a villain. Indeed so confident am I of the very sure & splendid success that awaits my plan properly acted on that I declare solemnly if I had 80, or 100,000 Doll[s]. worth of books, and cou'd command a Person of such Zeal, & Honesty as you know me to possess, I w[d] never let them lie pil'd up in useless thousands on their shelves. No, my principles are fix'[d]. The greatest Lovers of Mankind are the Happiest — and he who does the most good

[1] See *Appendix IX*.

in this world will be the most glorious in the next. Twas this expression that first set me on vending books. I feel the same passion now to multiply the Copies of Good books, especially those that tend to display the charm & happiness of Pure Religion & Politics. You have a thousand times offer'd me half of the profits on *your own books*. On your own books, very frequently, perhaps *generally* you get from 50 to 150 pr Cent. I shall be satisfied with 25 p^{r} Cent. you promptly to answer my orders at your own risk and cost of everything — I to sell all I can, to make choice of proper Mercantile Aids — to visit them twice a year and attend to Orders, Subscriptions &^{c}. &^{c}. You will please to *remark*, for I hope never to allow, again one single twinge of an accusing mind, that my engagements with Wayne of which I always told you, are not yet expir^{d}. On that event I may become nearly if not entirely devoted to your interest for a term of time at least sufficient to give the thing a fair trial. But I say here again in the presence of God that I feel *great* assurance of success, a success brilliant indeed, I mean if the choice of the books be left *to me*. And I assure you I do not wish to have anything to do with it unless that choice be left to me. I solemnly declare that had the amount of your 18 boxes been in such books as I *cou'd have order'd*, I shou'd by this time have sold perhaps every man of them off. The whole secret of our former miscarriage is simply this — you always sent *too many* to *one place* & *too few* of the *right sort*. Allow *me* but to chuse the Places & Persons, with the *number* & *kind* of Books and we may do things that you are *not at present aware of*. You see I was perfectly correct in my Judgment of the *Family Bible*. I shall be found just as correct in this plan, cou'd you but be persuaded to give up this *hap hazzard* way of sending books & let *me order* what *I know will sell*. If you undertake the business on your return I shall insist on a present of a little N. Jersey stage for mine is nearly gone.

Write immediately to me to *Augusta*. And if it shou'd appear that your Good Genius has prevaild with you to undertake this Noble Work under a *New Ministry*, I can easily send on to your order a list of such books as will best suit this southern market. Wishing you a very pleasant & profitable trip I remain

Yours

M. L. Weems.

L. & F. Vol. 69.

[N.d. received June 23, 1807.]

I sent you a few days ago ..... 50$ — May 24
I now send ..... 50$ — June 8

I am in Savannah still, & with hands tied up by M^r^. Wayne's business as I always told you — shall do something for you by & by. I send the inclos^d^ list from a full conviction that you will instantly attend to it. Doct. Geo. Harral to whom they are to be sent — (Savannah) is one of the safest *men in the world*. Rich, by his own *Industry*, *Method* & *Morals*, Superior to *Brundige*. Is a hearty Friend of mine, *Volunteer'd* his services in this troublesome affair of Washington — has sent between 1500 & 2.000$ to Wayne. His *store* (Chymical & Galenical) a place of grand resort. I am to give him half of my little part — you, as *usual* to send the books at your risk & cost — the unsold *to be return^d^ unsoil'd*. The first rate Doctors & Divines have [*been?*] given the lists and say they will heartily recommend them. You are desir'd to send of no book less than 2 copies. The Rev^d^ M^r^. Holcombe & Doct. Harrall will do a great deal of business for you here. Men of great weight — The one a Popular Baptist Divine, the other a Pillar of the Presbyterian Church.

[*M.L.W.*]

'MEDITATION FOR THE FOURTH OF JULY.

Knowledge, alas! not worth a groat;
Not worth a fig our fear:
For Feds and Dems must all to pot,
If LOVE be absent there.

AS the birth-day of our Independence, the glorious fourth of July is at hand, it seems peculiarly proper that we should be thinking a little how we may best perpetuate the blessings of our political regeneration. To some, indeed, it may appear an easy matter to settle that point. "Knowledge, knowledge," say they, "is every thing to a people so favored as the Americans. Let them but know the blessings of their own government, and they will be sure to defend them: let them but know the evils of foreign governments, and they'll be afraid to incur them." This is pretty talking, and nothing else. A fine compliment, indeed, to

man; that is, to man "*as he should be*," but not to man "*as he is*" — a creature most selfish and arrogant — the slave of his passions — terrible in his hatred — and, when wrought to the pitch by a furious lust, ready to stab his mother; to sell his country; to kick at Heaven, and to hurl both soul and body into hell. And is a republic to be committed to such madmen? Are they like[*ly*], in safety to hand down the precious cargo to latest posterity? Look to history, — Long before our time there were great republics in the world; why did not this boasted *knowledge* save them? They knew, as well as we, that republics are better than monarchies; and that their own safety was bound up with that of the republic. Yet, we see, that did not do. Ambitious wretches among them strove for power, and because they could not succeed, they furiously destroyed the governments which they could not master.

"I see the RIGHT, and approve it too;
"I hate the WRONG, and yet the wrong pursue"

— is the experience of all men, until their knowledge of right is seconded by that good spirit which alone gives *power to do it.* If you ask, what is that spirit? I answer — Tis LOVE, (*ardent Philanthropy.*) This, at once the sweetest and strongest of all the affections, is appointed of God as the grand preservative of all societies, but chiefly of republics; because the people there being most free, can do most harm, unless restrained by some secret force. This secret force, as I said, is love; which has the same benign influence on the moral world, that gravitation has on the natural. It counteracts the centrifugal and destructive tendencies of self-love, and, by causing republicans to study the good of others as their own, it makes them all feel that "*each is to each a dearer self;*" and thus binds them together by a centripetal impulse, strong and indestructible as a rock of granite. In short, all that Solomon says of that "righteousness which exalteth a nation;" all that Montesquieu praises in that "virtue which alone pillars up republics;" all that Washington boasts of that "religion, whose importance to society volumes could not trace" — is "summed up in LOVE; the bond of perfection," and the end of all religion. This is true "*salt of the earth*," preserving all societies from the corruption of selfish passions. This is "*the life of the world*," diffusing, (as natural life does through the body) that strong fellow-feeling through the members, that, when "*one suffers, all the rest suffer with them* [*sic*]," and are ready to fly to take his part.

For glorious proof, look at the little republic of Sparta. To make his dear countrymen invincible, Lycurgus knew that he must make them love one another — to kindle this social love, he knew he must

extinguish inordinate self-love. To this great end, he divided all the lands of the republic equally among the citizens; and, by creating a commonness of property, and sameness of dress and diet, (all exceedingly plain) he did away [*with*] pride, luxury and strife, and thus brought them, in a wonderful degree, to feel the glowings of the *brotherly spirit.* This spirit, descending into their hearts, rendered them terrible in the field as an army of brothers, each fighting for lives dearer than his own. On the brink of battle for their country, they needed no speech from their general to enflame their valour: one tender glance, thrown back on the *land of their brothers*, and instantly every bosom glowed with that spirit which "smiles on the drawn faulchion, and defies its edge." The trumpet's clangor is music in their ears, and they rush to the charge with eyes of lions, burning for slaughter. — Their swords rise high in the bloody strife; while, with close-compacted squadrons, they burst through the ranks of mercenary enemies, as the bounding ships through yielding waves.

For five hundred years, even all the time that they possessed this brotherly spirit, they remained invincible; and stood, though but a little people, in the midst of the great neighboring monarchies, like a rock in the midst of the ocean defying all its storms, and, from sides of adamant, easily dashing its loud, thundering billows.

No country affords a nobler proof of the guardian power of love than our own. Turn, for example, to New-England. 'Tis well known, that New-England was settled by a colony who left their native Britain for conscience' sake. To the land of their exile they brought with them their religion; which, partly perhaps for want of other consolations, they cultivated with great zeal. Their week-day hours were spent in innocent and happy labours, and on the sabbath they all went to church, where they were taught that "God is love;" and that he who loveth most, shall be the most happy. Suitable to such sublime doctrines were the morals of the hearers. Those who owed anything, paid with pleasure; those who promised, performed with punctuality. Superiors spoke with mildness, and inferiors obeyed with alacrity. The rich were like guardians to the poor, and the poor as children to the rich — and whenever they met, they met like brethren, every man's face shining upon his neighbor. What was the result? Why, the people of New-England grew up together as one great family; the blow that struck one was felt by all, and excited a rage dangerous to the strongest assailant. Witness the 19th of April, 1775, when a thousand British regulars fired on a company of sixty-four militia men, at the little town of Concord. Six of the militia men were shot down. See there the effect of that love which is ever ready "to lay down its life for its friends." At sight of their beloved neighbors weltering in blood, the rage of the farmers rose to a pitch that defied all con-

sequences. They returned the fire upon the enemy. Though but sixty against a thousand, they returned the fire! — Every volley fired by the British enraged the neighboring farmers as though it had been levelled at their own breasts. "The British are murdering our friends," was the reiterated cry. Instantly, all who heard the cry threw down the implements of husbandry, and flew to their houses — not to hide their plate, nor to stow away their *pintard*, but to snatch the arms of vengeance. Pouring in from every quarter were seen crowds of sturdy peasants, with flushed cheeks and fiery eyes, eager for battle. Nay, age itself forgot its wonted infirmities; and hands long palsied with years threw aside the cushion'd-crutch, and grasp'd the deadly fire-lock. In brief, the farmers attacked the British regulars with such fury, that they killed and took nearly one-fourth of their whole number! — A striking proof how close men will stick together, and how desperately they will fight for one another, when they LOVE. But change the case, and say what becomes of a republic, when LOVE, its *proper life*, is gone? Why, like the human body whose natural life is extinct, it runs to dissolution — and then, "*hateful, and hating one another*," its members all separate and fall to pieces, like a rope of sand.

And suppose again that the above "yankee-doodle," so bravely played at Concord, had happened under some of the European despotisms, where women and children have been known to starve, while the nobleman's dogs were wallowing in fat! and where poor mechanics, after all their labours, *hardly* durst rap at the rich man's gate for their pay! — I ask, would the poor men *there*, have rushed to arms as they did at *Concord*, and have run the risk of life and limb to defend such oppressors? I think not. I rather think it likely they would have joined the invader, and assisted to cut their tyrants' throats, for the chance of a better order of things.

From these reflections, tho' few and simple, we may collect some good fourth-of-July ideas. We may learn, at least, what it is that constitutes the *truly valuable* in political character — not he who *knows most* but he who *loves most*, is the best republican. Such an one will abound most in moral duties, which, as the Apostle says, are "Profitable unto men," and never fail to win their LOVE. LOVE gives UNION; UNION gives STRENGTH; and strength gives SECURITY and DURATION. Indeed, love is as essential to the republican as to the christian character; and, though I will not say, no man can be a republican who is not a christian, I will confidently assert, no man can be a christian without being a republican. Let him but "*love his neighbor as himself*," and he cannot fail to be as tender of his neighbour's interest as of his own; and will, as by a new instinct, become that industrious, frugal, honest and humane character we call a republican. Whoever fails of

these manners and *virtues*, has not love, and whoever has not love, is not a christian, nor a republican; but an aristocratic usurper of the rights of others — a thief and robber, denying them that comforting respect to which, as honest equals, they have claim; or withholding from them the well-earned rewards of their labours.

In short, love, with her graces and virtues, are [*sic*] the very ligaments of a republic; which they alone brace up to healthiest tone, and endue with all its noblest elasticities and energies. Whoever, therefore, by *fraud* or *violence*, sins against the law of love, is, so far forth, a traitor and murderer of his country. He cuts the sacred bonds that unite her children! and every such stroke ensures her downfall — every such blow drives a nail in her coffin!

Far, then, above the precious wedge of Ophir let us prize that love which, by consolidating, preserves all worlds; and equal to the fire of hell let us abhor that *injustice*, which makes "man an enemy to man;" and, by dividing, destroys nations.

As only a variety of the same infernal spirit, let us equally detest those bitter speeches which sometimes run like streams of gall through some of our newspapers. They are utterly incongruous with our national character. The manners of a people must ever resemble their government; and, as our's is the mildest on earth, our language should be the softest. Those abusive speeches, therefore, cannot be natives; they must certainly be exotics; the natural growth of foreign despotisms, where injured men are taught to *curse*, and, coming over here, they curse by habit. They also disgrace our glorious cause. Let those, who wish for a nation of king and slaves vilify such as cannot think as they do. Their cause is bad, their weapons can hardly be expected to be better. But we, who wish for a nation of equals, and therefore of *brothers*, must know we possess a portion of the same spirit with superior beings, and should feel ourselves too nearly allied to Heaven to be agitated by such low passions. For, to what serves conscious innocence and truth, but to inspire the soul with serenity and grandeur. Let us learn to measure men by that truest standard, the moral tendency of their wishes; and to pity or praise accordingly. If there be those who wish to exalt the FEW, on the degradation of the MANY, shall we hate and revile them for it? God forbid! Minds so void of the truth, hearts so destitute of love, you are no objects of hatred. Children of prejudice, you are wretched enough already! Convinced that you are in the wrong, heartily would we pity you! and, persuaded that we are in the right, we will "go on our way rejoicing."

M. L. WEEMS.'

Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger, July 2, 1807, UN'YGA.

'Fourth of July. . . .' [*Account of the Republican celebration in Savannah, Ga.*] '. . . The following toasts were drank: . . . [*Prayer*] By the Rev. Mr. Weems. — The Orator of the day — may he 50 years hence address a people as united and happy. . . .' [*The Orator of the day was William B. Bulloch, District Attorney.*]

Public Intelligencer (Savannah), July 7, 1807. A similar account published in *Republican and Savannah Evening Ledger* for July 9, 1807, HU.

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 70.

Augusta August 25. [*1807.*]

Sir. I send you 250 Doll[s]. 50 of the above for my sweet little Son Jesse-Boy Weems Dumfries Virginia to whom I conjure you to send it *instantly*, send *instantly*.

L. & F. Vol. 70.

Augusta. Octob. 11. [*18*]07

M. Carey Esq[r] . . . Coud we but understand each other, I mean, digest a system, Great things might be done. Because bad plans did not answer, good Ones cannot, is not Logic. I am morally Certain that I cou'd in 10 years make 20. to 30.000 Dollars for each of us were I but properly supported. But I am this day to set out for your City and then we may have a Grand talk. In the interim I wish you to attend to the follow[g] Gentlemen who are just as good as our Friend John Dickinson, Esq[r]. Capt[n]. James Merrewether of Louisville, Jefferson County, Georgia. He is an old Revolutionary Soldier, is *Rich*, Frugal, cautious, and Honest in the extreme — He is also Treasurer of the Franklin College, Athens, in this State & can sell a good many books for you. I know you w[d] delight in such a Man, and have promis[d] him that you w[d] send about 1500 Doll[s] worth of Books, chiefly the best *School books*, over & above his list which I enclose. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 70.

[*Augusta? received Nov. 23rd, 1807.*]

Sir. I send you ..... 50$

have more but cant get notes — everybody here sick or dying of the Influenza.

Shall wind up for you next week.

Skepticism, which is commonly supposed to indicate superior sagacity, is quite as likely to result from imperfect understanding. — JOHN FISKE.

L. & F. Vol. 71.

DUMFRIES March 3d. [18]08

Dr. SIR. I hasten to give you a Prospectus of all our late Concerns, — Early in Autumn .06 I wrote to you to send me 1000 or 1500$ worth of Savoury Meats for Sentimental, Political & other sorts of Literary palates — You sent me as by your own a/c render'd — 5286.40!!!! In return I have sent you, cash as follows . . .

Total, 3170.56 . . . On hand books still due you 2271.84.
Now had you sent me *but* the number, or indeed double the number I requested there wd have been no residuum, but as it is there are left 2271 $\frac{84}{100}$ Dolls' worth.

As my engagements, of which I always *apprisd* you wd not permit me to do any more at *present* — & as I did not *wish* to put you to the expense of freight, Insurance &c back to Philada. I dispos^{d} of them *into* the follow^{g} excellent hands. —

Captn. Merrwether, Rich & honest, Louisville.	444.37
Wm. Langley,[1] Post M. Camden, very Honest	567.96
Messr Anthonio & Shults,[2] Columbia, very Honest	488.
With Jas Corbett,[3] very thriv^{g} & honest Washington Georgia	410.71

[1] William Langley, postmaster, Camden, S. C., July 1, 1804 (first return) — 1815. See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 118–119, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C. — 'Intendants and Mayors of Camden . . . 1817. William Langley.' *Historic Camden*, Thomas J. Kirkland and Robert M. Kennedy, Columbia, S. C., 1905, LC.

[2] 'Columbia Library Society,' Notice of a quarterly meeting signed 'John Schulz, Secretary.' *South Carolina State Gazette and Columbian Advertiser*, Jan. 20, 1804, HU. See also *Addenda.*

[3] James Corbett, named one of the commissioners of the town of Washington, Wilkes Co., Georgia, at its incorporation, Dec. 7, 1805. See *Georgia's Landmarks, Memorials and Legends*, Lucian Lamar Knight, Atlanta, Georgia, 1914, Vol. II, p. 1039, LC.

Hobby & Bunce[1] Augusta, very thriving	384.
Col°. Leroy Pope, Petersburg, Geo^a. Rich & honor^ble	248.33
Lucas,[2] Post Master, Sparta, Geo^a. Rich Methodist.....	172.
Capt^n. Dion Oliver, Edgfield district near Augusta.....	105.
& in *very good hands* due to me	73.
	2893.37

You have charg'd me for the boxes, 16 in number, say 16$ & for 2 trunks 10$. I sold them for 4$ less than 10 — making in my favor 20$ To the amount above Books in *good hands* as I hope 2893.37

add the error, as above	20.
	2913.37
Cash sent you	3170.56
	6083.83[*sic*]

Thus it appears that there is a ballance coming to me. The reason is plain — I continued to send you on monies without *deducting my part.* And suppose I were to add, that of box N°. 16. (with 20 Bibles & 30 smaller books) found last week at Petersburg, Virg^a. & amount^g to 252.55. I left 10 Bibles with the wealthy & pious M^r Jos. Harding, Petersburg — & 10 d° with W^m Pritchard Bookseller Richmond. As to what you owe me, I shall let it lie till I come up to Philad^a. The 3170 Doll^s I sold for you in about 4 months. Hence you may learn what I might do for you were you but to let me have my way —

I shall come on in about 6 weeks, i.e. as soon as *the roads* will allow.

[1] William J. Hobby and William J. Bunce, publishers of the *Augusta Herald* (Georgia), from 1804 to 1817, printed the 'Second Edition Enlarged' of Weems' *God's Revenge against Murder* in 1807 (*Bibliography, title 177*). — Hobby was postmaster of Petersburg, Ga., in 1795 and Intendant of Augusta in 1805. See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, Washington, D. C., and *Bibliography of American Newspapers*, by Clarence S. Brigham, *ProcAAS.*, Vol. XXIII, p. 374; also, *Memorial History of Augusta, Georgia*, by Charles C. Jones, Jr., and Salem Dutcher, Syracuse, 1890, p. 166, LC.

[2] John Lucas, postmaster, Sparta, Ga., July 1, 1798 (first return) — 1809. See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, pp. 572–573, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C.

L. & F. Vol. 71.
DUMFRIES, [*Mar.? 18*]08.

. . . As to *James Lewis*, he is one who having considerably deteriorated my ragged fortune is gone "where the wicked cease from troubling." I shall be up soon.

L. & F. Vol. 71.
DUMFRIES, March 13. [*18*]08

SIR The Books, you alluded to in your last are all put at the *Philad*ª *retail* prices.

Were the Embargo [1] taken off, and Commerce & cash to return to their usual flow I coud do Great things with 3 Certain books that I know of.

I shall come on soon —

[To C. P. WAYNE]

Dreer Col. HSP.
[*Dumfries?*] March. 29. [*18*]08.

SIR. . . . I wish you not to be low-spirited with respect to Washington's Life. I have been unfortun[*at*]e with respect to this last years business but am very confident that I know a way whereby the ballance of the Edition may be sold off in a very short time —

I shall shortly set off for Philaᵈᵃ. I feel no uneasiness about any of the numerous Persons into whose hands this book has been put, but Mr. Somerville of *Petersb'*ᵍ Virginia —

Dreer Col. HSP.
DUMFRIES. March 31 — [*18*]08.

Dʳ. SIR. . . . You say that your business has been but a *secondary consideration* with me, for some months past. The followᵍ facts will I trust convince you of the extreme injustice of such a charge. In May 1806, Judge W[*ashington*]. stated in a letter to me at *Charleston* that the 5ᵗʰ. Vol. was ready for the press. I concluded it wᵈ certainly be forth coming in Autumn, & afford me a great deal of money for you during Winter. My friends advisᵈ that as I was so far from home I ought by

[1] An embargo which was decreed before the War of 1812 and which was most unpopular throughout the seaboard states.

all means to stay & finish the business. I wrote to you on the subject, and you left it to my *own discretion*. Having but little to do & vast expenses incurring, I wrote to you for 6000 Almᶜˢ. You sent them, but *so late*, that not *one half ever sold!!!* For the same reason, I told you I was going to print a little *80 pagᵈ* pamphlet, (*Life of Wash.*) You know you sent me some *likenesses for it*. Learning that the Legislative bodies of S. Caroᵃ & Georgᵃ wd be in Session at Columbia & Louisville, when I counted to make a good haul with our Grand Life of Wash. and knowing that a Subʳ after taking his copy wd be glad to get some other valuable book if he had opportunity, I wrote for a 1000 or 1500$ worth to *Carey*, you having repeatedly beggᵈ off from sendᵍ any more. In place of 1000 or 1500, Carey sent me 5250$ worth!! Well, the Fall & Winter came but no 5ᵗʰ vol. & Atlass came. The People grew outrageous & often *insulted me* & Doctor Murray also, challenging him for their *advance money* as in many instances they had subscribᵈ to him. Many of them swore they wd not touch [*any?*] till the 5ᵗʰ Vol. shouᵈ come & render their setts complete. Having waited so long I thought I wᵈ hold out till the Spring, and so went on vending my little trumpery & sometimes furnishing an old Subʳ. & trying to *get a new one*, which, by the by, the clamorous discontents of the People renderᵈ very rare & difficult. Such is the sketch of my *long delay* in that country. And tho' the plan of waiting there was suggested by my friends & not forbid by you, yet has it proved very *unfortunate:* not indeed on the account you stated, viz. "*my Wash.* & *Carey's* books," for without them I shouᵈ have made very scanty remittances to you. But it has been so *unfortunate*, by causing me the loss of nearly a whole year of precious time. As to Carey's books, or my own Life of Washⁿ. you know it was agreed that a moiety of *all* books run in Conjunction with your Life of Washington, shᵈ *be yours:* and to this engagement I consider myself sacredly bound.

As to my Brother in laws Books [1] I never got him a Subscriber!!! Conrad beggᵈ me to get him a few Subˢ for his Encyclopedia. I told you of it in Philaᵈᵃ. & also that you shᵈ have one half of the profit (8$) on each name that I might occasionally get. I *took but 5 Subˢ!!!!!* But notwithstandᵍ this serious loss of nearly one year of my time, I find that after all I have gotten more than half of all the subscriptions. What

[1] Probably James Ewell's *Medical Companion*.

might I not have done had I not been delay[d] as above and also by that heavy carriage of mine. But in my opinion the dead lift of *our Enterprize is now come.* To get Sub[s] in populous & wealthy towns is nothing, But now to push your Books thro the whole of the Country, which contains the mass of population, is the main difficulty. And thoroughly am I persuaded that on the return of commerce & cash, a plan, that I shall propose, will ensure success. I hope that Ramsays Edition of W.[1] will not do you much harm. You say that books odd vol[s] are rotting about the country — If you wish them back, why do you not as you are constantly writing to all the Agents, so order it. I did order on to you, from *some* places when the distribution was complete, as from *Charleston* &c. but in other places as Augusta, Sav., Newburn &[c] where numbers were yet unfurnish[d] I thought it right to wait longer. In short, tho' unfortunate in great losses of time, as above stated, I have done for the *best.* I feel myself pledg[d] to you in this affair and shall *to the close of it,* act as becomes me, but not so much for lucre's sake as from a Sense of Duty — . . .

N.B. I have all along kept you in my debt, and I trust you shall find it so at the winding up of the business.

Dreer Col. HSP.

ALEXANDRIA. Ap. 20. [*18*]08.

SIR. . . . I express[d] my *Wishes,* but I did not mean to obtrude Services. . . .

All are now sold but 4 boxes which shall soon be dispos[d] of. You ask me what's become of this, and whats become of that? I make no interrogations of this or that *of you* — Suffice it to say that I trust to bring you in my debt when we settle. Let us go on quietly to that happy moment.

[1] An earlier edition of *The Life of George Washington,* . . . By David Ramsay, M.D. . . . Fourth Edition; with Six Engravings. Baltimore: Published by Joseph Cushing. . . . 1815. LC.

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMFRIES Ap. 22. [*1808.*]

Dr. SIR . . . The roads are *still impassable.* But I am going about to the different Courts to distribute — shall start for Baltimore as soon as the settled weather shall give a rational hope that my heavy loaded waggon can get along. You speak about Anquetil — I have told you that as soon as the work shall be near its close I shall be willing to undertake it with spirit & success. Had I undertaken it 3 years ago, what w'd the Subs, at this time be saying of me? But I hope to be with you ere long. I trust that all your Aids will be quick on the trigger.

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMFRIES. May 4. [*18*]08

SIR. . . . Judge Washington gave me a letter to a Mr Mc.Kinley of Newburn whom I was thence disposd to consider as a Christian man at least, and behold he chargd when I was there 5 pr Cent commission exactly one half of what I am allowd. And here lately sent me a very polite note with a ballance of 40$ only! on which he charges upward of five & twenty pr Cent for Commission & storage of two boxes!!! He has now on hand 297 vols. Wash. & 12 Montagues Reflections. On my return from Balto shall I go thither? Or what shall I do?

Dreer Col. HSP.

DUMFRIES May 17. [*1808.*]

SIR. . . . Such heavy rains & deep roads were never known in this Country at this season — Stalling of Waggons, sweeping away of Stages, drowning of Horses &c &c are dreadful. . . .[1]

Dreer Col. HSP.

[*N.d. follows May 17, 1808.*]

'SUNDRY INHABITANTS OF TARBORO, N. C., TO C. P. WAYNE

We the undersigned beg leave to represent to Mr. C. P. Wayne — that we became Subscribers to the "Life of Washington" & paid Mr. Weems $12 — upon receipt of the 1st. & 2nd. volumes of the work — that in April 1806 we received from Mr. Weems the 4th. volume & paid

[1] See petition for improving such local conditions, Dec. 16, 1797.

him $8 the balance of subscription money — since which time, altho' we have repeatedly, through Gen[l] Tho[s]. Blount made application to M[r]. Weams [*sic*] for the remaining volumes — promises to deliver them, are all we have been able to procure. We therefore desire to know of M[r]. Wayne whether we are to rely on M[r]. Weams [*sic*] for the volumes still wanting (in which case we must abandon all expectation of receiving them) or whether he M[r]. Wayne will deliver them. If the latter D[r]. Battle will receive & forward them to us.

Tarboro 30th May 1811.

Thos. Blount [1] Hudson.

Jo Farmer [10]
Francis L. Dancy.'

For John Andron
J. W. Clark [2]
M. G. Hearn [3]
Jas Bell [4] for Jeremiah Hilliard [5]
Jer. Battle [6]
E. D. Macnair [1]
Jacob Battle [7] for Henry Thorpe
R. Stuart [8]
Edward Hall [3, 9]

[1] A Report of the organizing of the No. Carolina State Bank, dated Raleigh, N. C., June 21, states that, the Directors of the Principal Bank being duly elected, the following appointments were made in the branches: '. . . Tarborough Branch President — General Thos. Blount Directors . . . E. D. McNair . . .' *Petersburgh Intelligencer* (Virginia), June 28, 1811, AAS.—Thomas Blount and John Gray Blount (sons of Jacob Blount) were partners in the mercantile and shipping business in Washington, N. C. See *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina*, J. Kelly Turner and Jno. L. Bridgers, Jr., Raleigh, 1920, *f.n.* on p. 109, LC.

[2] James West Clark, State Senator from Edgecombe in North Carolina Senate, 1814. See *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, edited by William Henry Hoyt, A.M., Raleigh, 1914, Vol. I, pp. 75, 77; Vol. II, p. 7, LC.

[3] Michael Hearn and Edward Hall appointed commissioners, among others, for the Town of Tarborough. See *The State Records of North Carolina*, collected and edited by Walter Clark, Goldsboro, N. C., 1907, Vol. XXIV, on p. 740, LC.

[4] James Bell, a North Carolina Revolutionary Pensioner under the Acts of 1818 and 1832. *Ibid.*, Vol. XXII, p. 57, LC.

[5] Jeremiah Hillard, chosen, about 1800, as one of the committee to supervise elections in Edgecombe. See *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina*, J. Kelly Turner and Jno. L. Bridgers, Jr., Raleigh, 1920, p. 108, LC.

[6] In an advertisement in the *Raleigh Register* of June 9, 1820, Jeremiah Battle endorses the work of Messrs. Freeman and Hassam's Private Academy in Raleigh, N. C., June 8, 1820. See *North Carolina Schools and Academies, 1790–1840*, Charles L. Coon, Raleigh, 1915, LC. — Quotations from Dr. Jeremiah Battle's account of Tarboro in the year 1810 given in *Early History of Tarboro, North Carolina*, Gaston Lichtenstein, Richmond, 1908, p. 7, LC.

[7] Jacob Battle, the youngest son of Elisha Battle, one of the original Commissioners of the town of Tarboro and the progenitor of an enormous family in North Carolina. See *When Tarboro Was Incorporated*, Gaston Lichtenstein, Richmond, Va., 1910, LC.

(*Notes 8, 9 and 10, on following page*)

[To Peter Horry]

Views and Reviews. William Gilmore Simms, Second Series, p. 132. [*Italics are Simms'.*]

'Dumfries, (Va.) June 3, 1808.

I hasten, my dear and honoured sir, to thank you for the very friendly epistle that I got from you, dated from High Hills of Santee. I beg you to indulge no fears that Marion will ever die, *while I can write or say any thing to immortalize him.* Indeed, such services and such servants to the American people ought never to be forgotten; I mean yourself and your illustrious Marion. Would to God you had a bard of fire to record your great and glorious deeds in such glowing colours, that your children's children might read and weep over what you did and suffered for them, when they were not able to fight for themselves. *I hope in three weeks to have it all chisel'd out in the rough cast. It will then take me about three weeks to polish and colour it in a style that will, I hope, sometimes excite a smile, and sometimes call forth the tear.*[1] The embargo, 'tis true, as you observe, has made cash rather scarce, but I trust, I shall be able to get it printed, and very handsomely too. In all your letters to your amiable lady and Miss B——, please mention my name very affectionately. Pray God, you may find the waters medicinal indeed. Give me a very long letter.

Your affectionate friend,

M. L. Weems.'

[8] Robert Stewart, general purchasing agent for Edgecombe, 1787. See *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina,* J. Kelly Turner and Jno. L. Bridgers, Jr., Raleigh, 1920, p. 331, LC.

[9] 'Wednesday, 1st. [*1815*] We came twenty-two miles, . . . It was time to lower our sails and drop anchor at Edward Hall's, near Tarborough: . . . Sunday, 5th. I spoke to a gathering of serious people in Edward Hall's large dining-room . . .' From the *Journal of Rev. Francis Asbury (1745–1816), Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church,* in *Early History of Tarboro, North Carolina,* Gaston Lichtenstein, Richmond, 1908, p. 7, LC. — 'Mr. Hall, who was one of the most prominent men in the county.' *History of Edgecombe County, North Carolina,* J. Kelly Turner and Jno. L. Bridgers, Jr., Raleigh, 1920, p. 473, LC.

[10] Perhaps Joseph Farmer, a soldier in Capt. James Yancey's Company of Foot belonging to the Regiment commanded by Col. Richard Henderson, 1771. See *The State Records of North Carolina,* collected and edited by Walter Clark, Goldsboro, N. C., 1907, Vol. XXII, on p. 162, LC.

[1] Generally entitled *The Life of Gen. Francis Marion . . .* by Brigadier General P. Horry, of Marion's Brigade; and M. L. Weems. The first edition found by me is that of W. D. Bell & J. F. Cook, Baltimore, 1814. (*Bibliography, titles 85–130.*) This biography, written by Weems from careful notes of Peter Horry, was second only in popularity to the former's *Life of Washington* and was still publishing in Philadelphia in 1891. Its appeal was undoubtedly due to the form in which Weems cast it, as a narrative and almost fictional account. Horry was keenly disappointed and expressed his displeasure at the results.

[To C. P. Wayne]

Dreer Col. HSP.

Dumfries. June 20 — [*18*]08.

Sir. . . . It grieves me that you sh[d] credit the "*distressing accounts*" as you call them, that are sent to you from *Geo[a]* & *S. Carol[a]*. Certainly M[r]. Wayne you must know that these communications are from some Malignant Rascals or other — So help me God, I have seperated myself from a most affect Wife & family for 24 months & about two thirds of that time were spent in ceaseless plying between Augusta, Washington, Louisville, &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. to distribute the books & receive monies for you! Was I not at Georgetown 8 days — at Newburn 8 days — at Wilmington 6 days — with the 1.2[d]. 3[d]. & 4[th]. Vol[s] distributing to all who w[d] receive — for *many* swore they wou'd not receive till they cou'd see the last Vol[s]. & Atlass. At Fayette I had but a few Sub[s], and I begg[d] M[c] Crae [*McRae*] to distribute to them he having tender[d] his services thereto — Mr. Wayne, let me ask you what made me so industrious & successful in getting sub[s]? Was it not because my interest was concern'd in it? Then how much more is my interest concern'd in *distributing* the books? On every copy I distribute, I get 2$! The truth is, M[r]. W. *many* of the sub[s] are dissatisfied with the work & wont take it. And I can't force it down their throats. — I send you 80$. I shall write to your agents for Cotton for you.

I tell you the world abounds with Bad men. I carry their books — they shuffle & shrink from them, *then abuse me.*

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 73.

[*Receved Sept. 29, 1808.*]

"From Wilmington write to me ad longum" — was the last voice of green erin's son. But indeed my head, it doth too sadly ache, and mine eyes are too much wind shotten from the wrathful Delaware to write ad longum. However as you are one of the wise who can see multum in parvo, you will for the present, I trust, take a sentence for a Sermon. You ask[d] me my friends name at *Norfolk*. I pray you not to send a book to any of the Seaboard towns. The middle and western counties, villages, &c. &c. be my range. I shall want in toto *pro tempore presenti*, 5000 for Dumfries (*includ[e]* box No. 10 & *my trunk* for *M[rs]. Weems*) and

5000 for Fredericksb^{g} — to *Adam Cook*, Merch^{t}. Fredericksb^{g}. 1000, to Joseph Harding Merch^{t}. Petersbur^{g}, 1000 Peter Davis [1] Warrenton, N. Carolina — 1000, Col^{o}. Vaughan [2] Merch^{t}. Williamsboro No. Carolina — 2000 to Gen^{l} Steel [3] (former Comptroller Gen^{l} U. S.) Salisbury N. Carolina. Besides at Charlotte — Augusta &c. &c of which we will talk. I have *repeat'dly told* [*you*] that as my hands are not yet wash^{d} of my friend Wayne, I cannot in conscience do much anterior to that consummation so devoutly wish^{d}. My orders therefore of books are purposely so small that I may easily slide them off without injustice to him & consequently with a comfortable hope of good event to ourselves. I shall e're long be clear of M^{r}. W. and then if the Embargo be up, commerce brisk, cash *at high* tide & my Spirits enliven'd by a judicious cooperation from M. C. Esq^{r}. I may, Deo adjuvant. do good things for you. But I fear everything. Tho' so often disappointed by large shipments of large books — & tho *So Often* intreated in the spirit of true philosophy & friendship, to give 50 varieties of highly entertain^{g}, & sweetly moralizing little ad captandum books @ $\frac{25}{100}$ you will not hearken — at least I fear not. I want *no blame* & no books *sent back!!* I pray you urge the sale of Mary Findley [4] — that we may have a lovely

[1] Peter R. Davis, postmaster, Warrenton, N. C., Jan. 1, 1805 (first return) — 1807. See *P. O. Rec. Bk. No. 1*, p. 654, P. O. Bldg., Washington, D. C. — Peter R. Davis, with others, endorses the Warrenton Female Academy in an advertisement in the *Raleigh Register*, Dec. 16, 1825, cited in *North Carolina Schools and Academies*, 1790–1840, Charles L. Coon, Raleigh, 1915, p. 620, LC.

[2] *Ad.* 'Eagle Tavern, In Williamsborough, Granville County, North-Carolina. . . .' Treat Fenn announces his intention of keeping the above Tavern, and James Vaughan gives his recommendation of the enterprise, December 20, 1805. *Petersburgh Intelligencer* (Virginia), Dec. 31, 1805, AAS.

[3] John Steele, 1764–1815, of Salisbury, first comptroller of the Treasury of the United States, 1796–1802; holder of various other official positions; 'the most conspicuous member of the Federalist party in North Carolina.' *The Papers of Archibald D. Murphey*, edited by William Henry Holt, A.M., Raleigh, 1914, Vol. I, p. 23, and *f.n.*, in which the references cited are Wheeler, *Historical Sketches of North Carolina*, II, 382–383; K. P. Battle, editor, *Letters of Nathaniel Macon, John Steele and William Barry Grove*, with *Sketches and Notes* (James Sprunt Historical Monograph, No. 3, University of North Carolina, 1902); *Raleigh Register*, Apr. 10, 1812, Aug. 25, 1815, LC.

[4] *God's Revenge Against Murder; or, the Drown'd Wife of Stephens's Creek. A Tragedy, As lately performed, with unbounded applause, (of the Devil and his Court) by Ned Findley, Esquire, one of the Grand Company of Tragedians in the Service of the Black Prince, Who was so highly gratified with Mr. Findley's performance, that he instantly provided him Rooms in one of his own Palaces; created him a Knight of the most ignoble order of the Halter; clapped bracelets on his wrists, and an ornament round his neck;*

edition for the South. This you can do the better now that you have suspended your Antimasonic Drastic —[1]

God bless you all

L. & F. Vol. 73.
[*N.d. unattached.*[2]]

. . .

P.S. . . . As I shall be detain'd till the Session of Congress, and also of the Maryl[d], Virg[a], & N. Carolina legislatures w[d] it not be well to send me on 100 Washington 100 Marion & 100 Findley to Annapolis — to care of Ridgley & Weems[3] — Ditt° to Washington to care of Rind[4] — 200 of each to Richmond to Pleasants & 150 each to Gale, Rawliegh . . . never send again to Norfolk.

L. & F. Vol. 73.
GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE Octob. 7[th]. [*18*]08.

D[r]. SIR Most sincerely now do I *regret* that I did not follow your advice which, totidim verbis, was "*you had better have too many than too few*" meaning poor Mary Findley. But who coud have thought that 600 woud not have serv[d] my turn & satisfied the curiosity of so few towns & villages from Wilmington to Laureltown. But so it is, my ground is hardly half gone over & yet my powder & shot almost spent! Oh that thou hadst but the faith of a good Catholic Layman, then thou shoud'st, not only trample upon that *innoxious* Master Minister Mason, that

and in a few days promoted him to the ridge pole of the gallows, at Edgefield Court-House, South Carolina. By M. L. Weems, of Lodge No. 50, Dumfries. Second Edition Enlarged — Price, 25 Cents. O Reader dear, I give you here A book to look upon, That you may pray, both night and day, Nor go, where Ned has gone. Augusta: Printed by Hobby & Bunce, at the Herald-Office. Copy Right Secured. 1807. (*Bibliography, title 177.*) The heading to the text is 'The Sorrowful life and Cruel Death of Mary Findley' and Weems often refers to the book in some such fashion.

[1] Alluding to one of Carey's polemics against the Masonic order. Weems made much of belonging to it in some of his earlier title pages.

[2] Probably belongs to the preceding letter.

[3] The shipping firm, of which one member was probably Weems' elder brother.

[4] Either William Alexander Rind, who between 1800 and 1809 issued the *Washington Federalist*, or his son, William Rind, Jr., who in 1809 established *The Museum and Georgetown Advertiser*. See *Bibliography of American Newspapers*, by Clarence S. Brigham, *ProcAAS*.

creeping curling heel biter of the Saints, but thou shoud'st become, *maximus in minimis*, a rich and great man, by *distribution immense* of ad captandum 25 cent publications & pamphlets!!! Don't send to Dumfries & Fredericksb^{g} more than I begg^{d}. I said & say again, I want no *blame*. I want *no books sent back!!* It were better to ship no other books till I come up to you. You have full time enough.

I hope you sent my trunk for M^{rs}. Weems, didn't you? — The miserable paper (turn over) of this 4th. edition of Mary Findley mortifies me dreadfully. Were it not that there is murder in the thing it cou'dn't possibly fly at this rate. But really I'm dying to have it off, that we may have another edition *ad captandum*, or in your *best style*.

But, you see, on my return I have to cut up to Reading, Lancaster, Carlisle, &c &c where I shall want at least 700, which with 774 taken before will make upwards of one third of the edition. How very easily may you push off the rest among the New Yorkers & Yankees? Indeed I am very certain that it wou'd be worth, *well* worth your while to start William with a trunk of 10 or 12,00 of them to *Trenton*, *Princeton*, *Brunswick*, *Bridgetown*, *Elizabeth*, *New Ark* & [*New*] *York*. In this coming mild weather of *October*, — this *Indian summer*, when the spirits of the People shall be getting gay & bold, let William fall upon them with his popular advertisements & the sweetly mournful Likeness of the Murdered Fair One, & he will certainly put off 1200. There is a time to catch popular feelings as well as young Rabbits & a cold cloudy day is not that time — a warm bright day is the thing. Well, I know you'll do all things well. Look to the *50 varieties* of 25 cent books. When I come up, please God, I'll suggest something worth your hearing. For fear of fire, which w^{d} utterly incapacitate me to create an immediate substitute, *pray* get M^{r}. Cochran to send you a copy of the Life of Washington,[1] as far as he has gone with it. I don't wish you to read it — it is not, qualis sit — I beg it for *safetys sake*. Did Capt^{n} Bush bring you some copy for Cochran? Please write to me at *Dover* in *6* da[*y*]s. Love to all.

[1] R. Cochran was printing the sixth edition, 1808 (*Bibliography, titles 11, 12*).

Mirth, *that wrinkled care derides,*
And Laughter *holding both his sides.*

L. & F. Vol. 74.
Jan^{y}. 7. 1809.

D^{r} Sir — I hasten to reimpress on you a wish — a wish a 1000 Times made — a wish very near to my heart — and a wish, your compliance or non-compliance with which will greatly affect my repose, sweetening or embittering much my thoughts in secret. You already understand me — I mean (Oh most short volume to a long Preface!) I mean, I wish, that you [*would*] give to M^{r}. John Adams the printing of your spring edition of the Life of Washington for Petersburg, Norfolk, Halifax, Edinton — Tarboro, Washington, Newburn, Fayette, Wilmington, Geo. Town, Charleston &^{c}. &^{c}. &^{c}. &^{c}. &^{c}. I have long had a liking for John Adams, & as to his Lady, she is a most excellent Woman and a Daughter of Auld Ireland. But poor is the pleasure of Nationality compar'd with that sublimer sentiment which belongs to minds magnanimous like yours, I mean the pleasure of reflecting that by giving the printing of 5000 of this work to this Family you will feel sometimes stealing across your thoughts the Joy of having thrown a *tow rope* to those who have not been so fortunate as yourself in the tempestuous navigation of Life. —

Your Affect.

turn

You said you w'd take the Toy books, I mean the amount of M^{r} Adams's debt to me — they make nine gross and an half. —

M^{r} Adams says that in ten weeks he can print 5000 — cost, in printing, paper, copper *plates*, *binding* &^{c}. &^{c}. *1450 Doll^{s} or thereabouts*. If something cou'd be done for M^{rs}. Adams & John, & for James who is a good plain Binder — I should then be very much at ease — sh^{d} have no more to ask.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

January 10, 1809.

. . . I shall put to press a new Edition of Washington [1] in a week or ten days. I shall print [*illegible*] 5000, and have it out as soon as possible, probably within five or six weeks. I shall have a full supply in every place you choose in the Spring . . .

L. & F. Vol. 74.

Lancaster, Jan^{y}. 13, [*1809.*]

D^{r}. Sir — Inclosed I send you $30

This is One of a new . . . [*illegible*] God give us good measure heap^{d} up & running over. I left in one of your lock & hinge boxes a number of 1st Vol^{s} Blair &^{c} &^{c} woud it not be well to have all my old books, bound, half d^{o} and sheet ditt^{o} naild up in one of your large old boxes. I set off in a few hours. I have not been able to sell one single copy of Doctor Chapman's work [2] — But have gotten them into a good way I hope. Ch^{s}. Smith [3] says that a motion will be made tomorrow or next day for several copies of these to be taken by the House, & M^{r}. Hopkins says he will do all in his power for me. What I send you is the fruit of Washington & Mary Findley, — of the former, M^{r}. Dixon thinks he shall sell nearly the whole (200) during the Session. I wish you w^{d} make great exertions — but why need I make any wish that you sh^{d} do all in your power to expedite the sale of what of Washington remains on hand? You have a great deal of money lying in the bones of old George if you will but exert yourself to extract it — Let Henry make a leg (with his Washington & advertisements) at all the genteel Hotels about the City — And perhaps some good fluent Hawker w^{d} aid as much.

John Adams will furnish you, of his primers to amount of $19.50.

I know you will have everything smooth & easy for me at Dumfries.

[1] Ninth edition 1809 (*Bibliography, title 17*).

[2] *Select Speeches, Forensick and Parliamentary with Prefatory Remarks.* By N. Chapman, M.D. . . . [Philadelphia.] Published by Hopkins and Earle . . . 1808. LC. This same edition is listed in *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 698, LC.

[3] Possibly Augustine Charles Smith, 1789–1843, a member of the Virginia legislature. See *Some Prominent Virginia Families*, Louise Pecquet du Bellet, Lynchburg, LC.

Let me intreat that you give the Principles of politeness in a size that *everybody may purchase.*

I intreat you to do something for John Adams, — By seeing Mr. Adams & getting the Pair to binding & printing somewhere near you, much may be done for the good of number one.

I shall write soon —

Letter 1 — will be presented to you by Mr. Miflin,[1] a genteel young gentleman of your town.

L. & F. Vol. 74.

COLUMBIA. Jany 15. [18]09

Dr SIR. . . . Being the amount of two copies of the [*torn*] speeches which my kinsman Chs. Smith Esqr. persuaded the lower house (of Legislature) to take — He hopes the upper house will take a copy or two — He has a paper & so has Lawyer Hopkins, both of whom say they hope to do good things for me.

Mr. Wayne (son of Gen[l] Wayne) will have it that his Father cou'd not have committed [*the*] faux pas mentiond of him at page 209 Wash. Life.[2] They say it was Colo Ethan Allen. The gentlemen here say the anecdote must not be lost but given to Allen. Then say the "*Hero of Ticonderoga.*"

Dont enlarge Chesterfield's principles of politeness but in the way I advise.

If Dickinson [3] or others shd apply for copy right of Mary Findley, do the best for me you can.

I wish you not to be in too great a hurry about this next edition of Washington. Will it not be right to push off a great many first of this edition.

O those Europeans of Europe murder me.

[1] There are many Mifflins listed in the *Philadelphia Directory*, 1809, but there is no way of identifying the one here referred to.

[2] An anecdote of a convivial scene among several officers which is contained in all the editions of Weems' *Life of Washington*, beginning with the earliest Keatinge issue.

[3] A[*bel*]. Dickinson, Philadelphia, had 'printed for the Author' the fifth edition, 1808, and for M. Jones, 'by permission of the author' the sixth edition, 1809, of Weems' *God's Revenge against Murder* (*Bibliography, title 179*).

L. & F. Vol. 74.

[*N.d. written on the back of the letter from H. H. Brackenridge, dated Jan. 19, 1809, later printed as a commendation, in Weems' Life of Washington.*]

Dr. Sir,

From Lancaster I sent you	60
From Frederick	140
I now send (or have to send)	110
Which with travelling expenses (*not charg^d to you*) say	40
	350

make 350$ — the whole, or nearly so, collected from Washington — and without stopping to vend a copy in Georgetown, Washington or Alexandria. The truth is Washington will, if you will but let me lead off the dance for you, do more for you than any *one* book of the *same size*, you ever had anything to do with — Believe me I sometimes mourn that I ever let it go out of my hand, — but *chiefly* because it is not *half finished*, not *half* finish^d. Several *most valuable* chapters, chapters *entire*, ought still to be added. And in the work, as it now stands, there are many passages that are capable of being wrought up to a far *more interesting height*, but which can hardly be done except by a mind peculiarly prone to the thing like mine, and enthusiastically heated. However so great [*is*] the interest I take in setting Washington before the youth of our Country, that tho' he is now, mainly your Property;[1] yet will I for some trifling Douceur, *left to yourself*, cheerfully undertake to labour on this Work both in adding & polishing, untill it shall be fit for you to set up in metal "[*perenias are?*]" We may do great & good things together by & by if you can but be patient a little. Agreeably to your instructions the draft was sent — but everybody here is so poor that I can't do anything with it — I had thoughts of sending it back to *Christie;*[2] but, on second thoughts, prefer sending it to the fountain head.

[1] Some time between the Cochran 1808 and the Carey 1809 editions of the *Life of Washington*, Weems had sold the copyright to Carey for $1,000. See letter of Mar. 20, 1809, p. 399.

[2] Perhaps one of the following: *Ad.* 'Just published, . . . a speech, delivered by the grave of the Revd. Joseph Priestley, LL.D. F.R.S. &c. . . . By William Christie. Northumberland, Nov. 23d, 1804.' *Republican Argus* (Northumberland, Pa.), Dec. 14, 1804, HU. Or 'Wm. Christie, Jr. of Philadelphia Publisher

You will infinitely oblige by *immediately* sending me on 350 dollars — and in some of the safest monies you can.

On looking over several of the boxes & the whole of the invoice, I find none, or but few of Murray's Grammar [1] *large*, I have had several calls for it — also for Craft on Distillery — and Coxes *Medical dictionary*.[2] Prepare a box of *Forensic speeches*,[3] I mean eleven copies for Col° Baker Johnson, Frederick Town, Maryland for his son in law Mr Ross[4] — firm as Gibraltar.

L. & F. Vol. 74.

FREDERICKSTOWN, Jany. 25, [*18*]09.

D^r^ SIR — . . . What with snappings of wheel [*tires?*] — breakings down of axles &^c^. &^c^. &^c^. I have been till this time reaching this place — I expect to start, day after tomorrow for Dumfries.

You talk^d^ of writing to me about Washington, *emendated*, &^c^. &^c^. &^c^. &^c^. &^c^.

There is a young German Divine in this place who is willing to translate Washington into Dutch.[5] I mention this that you may revolve it in your mind, whether you w^d^ approve the idea of translating or not — and by whom &^c^. &^c^. pray make up your mind as soon as possible.

of the 1st edition of O'Neill's Geography (1808)' corrected a statement written by himself therein to the effect that the English are tinctured with illiberal contempt for other nations. See *Federal Gazette & Baltimore Daily Advertiser*, Aug. 17, 1815, MdHS. Or it may be Joseph Christie of Fredericksburg (see letter postmarked Aug. 24, 1815) of whom I have found no trace. See also *Addenda*.

[1] Lindley Murray's *English Grammar*. The LC. has the '1st American edition,' Boston, 1800. *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, lists a Philadelphia, 1817 edition, title 3360, LC.

[2] 'Coxe's (John Redman, M.D.) *Philadelphia Medical Dictionary; containing an explanation of all the terms used in Medicine, Surgery, Pharmacy, Botany, &c. &c.*, $3, Philadelphia, 1808.' *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 2936, LC.

[3] By Dr. Chapman. See note 2, letter of Jan. 13, 1809.

[4] 'William Ross, the grandfather of Charles Worthington Ross [1836–1905, one of the best known citizens and most able attorneys at law of Frederick County, Md.] was born in Lancaster, Pa., March 1, 1772, and died December 19, 1852, in Frederick, Md. He married Catharine Worthington Johnson, daughter of Colonel Baker Johnson, and had ten children.' *History of Frederick County, Maryland*, T. J. C. Williams, Hagerstown, Md., 1910, Vol. II, p. 1385, LC.

[5] As there is no proof in the letters between Carey and Weems that Carey had seen the different edition which had been printed in Baltimore by Keatinge probably in 1800, or that by Bartgis in Fredericktown, Md., in 1801, I think it very likely that Weems now went

[To Thomas Jefferson] *L. C.*

Navy Yard — Doctr Ewells.[1] Feby. 1. 1809.

Sir — The Multitude adore the rising sun. — for me, I honor the steps of his departure. My thoughts return with pleasure to the fields that were bright with his beams where the Olive gladdend in her labours and the vine shook her green leaf with Joy to the flattering ray that fill[d] her clusters with nectar. Self descending your Excellency sets in glory — and soon to rise in multiplied radiance on all the political stars that are to shine by your absence.

I beg your Excellency's acceptance of a copy of a New Work — The Private Life of the man whom, you, of all others most rever'd, and whom with such peculiar felicity you styled "Columbia's First & Greatest Son."

This is the Seventh edition[2] — 10,000 copies have been sold — and some flattering things said — But if, on perusing this private Life of Washington your Excellency should be pleas'd to find that I have not, like *some* of his Eulogists, set him up as a Common Hero for military ambition to idolize & imitate — Nor an Aristocrat, like o*thers*, to mislead & enslave the nation, but a pure Republican whom all our youth should know, that they may love & imitate his Virtues, and thereby immortalize "the *last Republic now on earth.*" I shall heartily thank you for a line or two in favor of it — as a school book.

That from the top of your own heaven-kissing hill you may long long look around with a Parents joy on the continuing Peace, Prosperity & Universal blessings of America, is the sincerest wish of your Excellency's greatly oblig'd & most aff. friend[3]

M. L. Weems.

ahead on his own account with Bartgis, using for the latter's German translation the first version of the *Life*, to which Carey would have no rights, and that this resulted in the Bartgis German edition of 1809 (*Bibliography, title 18*). At the same time, it is probable that Carey encouraged the proposal made in the letter above, and issued his Schnee edition, a translation of the accredited edition into German, printed for Carey in Lebanon, Pa., in 1810 (*Bibliography, title 20*). I have never been able to identify the "German Divine" mentioned in this letter though it might have been either David F. Schäffer or Daniel Wagner, both preachers who signed commendations for the Bartgis German edition of 1809 of Weems' *Washington* (*Bibliography, title 18*).

[1] This Dr. Ewells may have been Mrs. Weems' uncle.

[2] 'Printed for the Author,' Philadelphia, 1808 (*Bibliography, title 13*).

[3] No answer to this letter has been found by me, nor was it used in print, as far as I can discover.

[To Peter Horry]

Views and Reviews. William Gilmore Simms, Second Series, p. 133.

'Dumfries, Feb. 5, 1809.

Dear Sir: — It was not until this moment that I perused your friendly epistle, dated 16th Oct. at Dumfries. I need not assure you what secret pleasure it affords me to find from your pen that you were received and treated by my family with that hospitality which is due to all, but more especially to one to whom I am under such obligations. And the circumstance of your indisposition renders me doubly happy that Mrs. Weems and Fanny have enjoyed the welcome opportunity of adding a few days of comfort to your life. For the handsome things you are pleased to say of the latter, as well as for the very friendly offers made her, I pray you to receive my best thanks. I owe much to kind heaven on an endless variety of accounts, and not the least of all, for giving me this charming child, whose personal and intellectual endowments, I am happy to say, are the least of her excellencies. But I fear she will never have the pleasure to see you in South Carolina. In common with the rest of my family, it is her wish to see you every summer in Dumfries and its vicinity. *I am happy to tell you, that in a few weeks, I shall put Marion to press.* It is not for me to express any other than a hope that it will prove acceptable to the public, and not greatly disappoint your expectations. Many persons, and some of them, perhaps, pretty good judges, have been pleased to commend various pages which were read to them. It is my hope, at least, that it will become a school book in South Carolina, &c. Instructed as I am to appreciate the blessings of the equal and happy government we live under, I cannot otherwise than most highly esteem and value such men as Marion and Horry, whose patriotism and valour contributed so large a part of its establishment. Be assured then, that it is with pleasure I write this history, and, as I said before, I hope I shall write it to your satisfaction and to that of the friends of the illustrious Marion. My family joins me in best wishes for your speedy and entire recovery, with my great, good, loving compliments to your lady, and Miss B——, and Mrs. and Mr. I——, and all friends, I beg you to be assured of my most affectionate sentiments.

P.S. I hope to bring Marion with me in June.'

[To Mathew Carey]

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Dumfries — Feb. 10, [*18*]09

Dr. Sir, . . . That amiable woman from Ireland, Mrs. Cooke, School Mistress in this town, is dead. You will much oblige me by advertising for a Lady who can teach reading, writing, arithmetic — grammar — Geography — needle work & if possible, *music* (the piano) of character &c. &c. that wd please *you* — and who is willing to try her fortune in Dumfries — and for what sum, the lowest she will take — I confide in you to attend instantly to this affair for me.

I have open'd all the boxes brot from Alexa (some were caught by the ice) & am assorting them — You have no idea of the vexation which Henry, Wm. & Mr. Wayne have given in this affair — I shall probably dash on to Fredericksbg from which I have advices of the safe arrival of the books to that place.

The Embargo is nearly off! Thank God. Be patient — and shuffle well the cards & all will be well.

Love to the family.

You once took the numbers of several lottery tickets belonging to me, with a promise that you wd see what fortune I had got — Lottery for encouragement of useful arts.[1] Tickets No. [*cut out.*]

L. & F. Vol. 74.

Dumfries, Feby. 20, [*18*]09.

Dr. Sir. . . . Our Seine will not do. The meshes are too much, for big fish — The small fry is our play. . . .

I beg you, for God Almighty's sake, to beware of New England Book Swindlers. Those wretches have no idea of any interest but their own. If they cou'd they wd get a guinea a piece for their John Rogers Primer & take your Quarto Bibles red morrocco bound, for NOTHING, Never send any of their books to me. My wish is that your book stores under my direction will get the character of *cheap* — mighty cheap —

[1] *Ad.* 'Now is your Time! 10.000 Dollars may be gained for One Dollar & Fifty Cents, in the Philadelphia Grand Lottery . . . for the encouragement of Useful Arts . . .' *Raleigh Register* (North Carolina), Feb. 4, 1808, NcStL.

monstrous cheap & so on. This will accomplish your wishes — Public Benefit and Private Wealth. as proof of my *sincerity* in this respect I have put the Confectioner[1] at 62½/100, Love's essays at same price, & Charlotte Temple[2] @ 37½. The truth is my Dr. Sir, as "*one dead fly will cause the Apothecary's Ointment to stink*" — as one spark did set the Temple of Diana on fire, so one or two little books, *not worth a fig*, will blow you up, I mean the Character of your Book stores. I love you, but Cottom & Stewart[3] of Fredericksbg do not. And I can't bear that those young fellows who do nothing but bask in the sunny sides of streets all day, and blow clarinets at night, shoud get the better of such a laborious man as you are. If you cou'd but follow the counsel of one who is thought to have some little skill in this partizan sort of warfare, you wd, as far as it depends on *me*, succeed. But — I have my fears — not the right ammunition, *altogether*, and too quick on the trigger. 10,000 loves to the family.

I am much under a cloud — not having yet entirely pd for my house[4] — I pray you to remember that I depended much on you. I shall write to you in 3 days from Washington & ad longum.

Yours Dr Sir

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DUMFRIES. Feb. 22. 1809

SIR I thank you for the offer to return me the copyright of my Life of Washington — shall be oblgd to you to transmit, as you promise, the bill of sale by mail & I will return your *receipt.*

[1] *The Complete Confectioner, or, The Whole Art of Confectionary Made Easy:* . . . By Frederic Nutt, Esq. Fourth Edition; with considerable additions. London Printed: New-York Reprinted, For Richard Scott, . . . 1807. BPL. Containing advertisement, in fly leaves: '. . . it is very extraordinary, that only one work, except the present, was ever presented to the world, on the Art of Confectionary; that production has already met with the contempt which it justly deserved. . . .'

[2] In *New York, Not So Little and Not So Old,* [*p. 118*] Mrs. Lockwood records the fact that in Trinity Church Yard, New York, some sentimental admirer inscribed a slab with the name of "Charlotte Temple."

[3] 'Cottom & Stewart, Printers, Book-Sellers & Stationers Alexandria. have now in the Press a new Novel entitled The Beggar Boy, By George Bellony, Esq. . . . May 1, 1802.' *American Literary Advertiser* (Washington, D. C.), June 18, 1802, AAS. — They issued *The Jefferson Almanac* for John Gray, Alexandria, 1806, and *The Alexandria Almanack*, Richmond, 1807, LC. See also *Addenda.*

[4] Probably referring to Belle-Air, which Weems is reputed to have taken over about 1810, after the death of his father-in-law, Col. Ewell.

The 450$ in question, were offer'd to me long before you thought of purchasing the Life of Washington — They were, as I considered the matter, *generously* tender'd to pay for my house — and I had no idea that you wou'd take them back — Nor do I now charge you with any such intention, especially as you seem to think that I have monies enough coming in from other quarters. . . .

Now thats exactly going ashore on the rock I always dreaded — and against which I forever begg'd you to keep a good look out. I told you & told you again that if you w^d^ but allow a good seeding time we shou'd, with Heaven's blessing, have a capital harvest of it by & by. But here, as I dreaded, you are looking for your tythe before *the seed's in the ground* — for the "*Select Speeches*" were not arriv^d^ in Washington when I was there — nor can they be there yet, but I shall go tomorrow to see.

Your ob^t^. hu^ble^. Servt

L. & F. Vol. 74.

[*Dumfries?*] Feb. 23 — 1809

Sir. . . . You once told me that you heartily wish^d^ you had kept yourself to *school books*, in which event, you shoud, you said, have made a pound where you had made a dollar. If you cou'd but view this business we are about to engage in, with my optics & impressions, you w^d^ never lose sight of School books — you w^d^ dig for them as for hidden treasures & pile them like Pyramids. War or no war People will have, because they *must have* school books. And by & by we may get most of our school books, like our national ballads & gazettes, to contain just what Ethics & Politics we please.

By & by I may draw in 500 School Masters & Divinity Masters to be selling & scattering for you. . . . For I fear Millegan[1] is of the selfish sort. . . .

Patienta — vinus.

[1] Possibly the following, which is the only reference I have found: 'The Acc^t^. between M Carey, & the subscriber, is this day fully & completely Settled, & cleared. Joseph Milligan. Georgetown June 28, 1815' *Mathew Carey Account Books*, Vol. 28:4081, AAS.

[From Carey]

L. & F.
Feb. 28, 1809.

. . . I retain the Contract. It is too childish to [*illegible*] break bargains in this way. You will make more in my hands than in your own. I have engaged five engravings, Braddock's defeat, Battle of Bunker's Hill, the Garden [*obliterated*] [*Cap*]ture of Andre — Cudjo's measuring the Atlantic . . . You shall have 10.000. . . .

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Dumf. March. 12. [*18*]09.

Dr Sir. Yours, with 300 Dolls. is safe in hand — for which I thank you. Shou'd have been better pleas'd with the return of the copy right, as you offer'd, but I don't care. God can make it out for good, and as I ever have & ever mean to act honorably I hope & trust he will so order it. But it grieves me to think that the book is turning out, on a large scale, into the world, and in so unfinishd & imperfect a state. It is, as you well know, capable of great improvement, not only of polish & melody in the numbers, but in accession of most interesting anecdotes and valuable sentiments. Such is the interest I take in this book that I mean to prepare [*additions?*] for the next edition — leavg it to yourself to make me some allowance therefor. I take it for granted you will send none to the south of Philadela save to my orders. I am beginning to form a cordon of Agents on the towns. . . . I am now, with my little Daughters, employd and with ten times more of difficulty & vexation than I expected, opening, assorting, repacking, &c &c. &c. I verily believe it will cost me a fortnight's labour, so great has been the mismatching, mistaking, & confusion created among the books by those three young Turks Wayne, William & Henry. The Select Speeches at last are come — But a day after the fair — However, I beg you to take these things very cheerily. We shall ultimately prevail. Best wishes to Mrs. Carey & Family.

[From Carey]

L. & F.

Philad[a]. March 20, 1809.

. . . You may, if you see fit, go on improving Washington, to extend it to about 300 pages.[1] For every page you add to it, I will allow you two Dollars. I have strong right to believe that through your parsimony respecting the copy right on the back of the title, which you said you w[d] have done, the work will be reprinted by some of the Yankees. There is not a single barrier against them. The law has not been complied with . . .

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Dumfries. March 15. [*18*]09.

D[r] Sir. . . . Wayne gave me a large engraving of Washington at the 2[d] action Trenton, in a frame 24 by 36 inches, or thereabouts. I am inclin'd to believe that I coud get a handsome subscription *to such a work*. I have had it almost torn from me, such is the public feeling toward that great man. Judge Johnson who was with me this morning, promis'd that he w[d] shortly give me an order for 1500 doll[s] worth of books. He blames me much for having sold you the Life of Washington, and says that if you play your cards well you may do well with it. So great is my solicitude to have it compleated to my mind & to your profit as well as my own, that I am willing to continue to *collect*, *incorporate*, *retouch*, *amplify*, and so on and so on and go thro all the cities & towns of the Unit[d] States inoculating the work in my *new way*, if you'll allow me but one cent for all that you shall print, while I am with you. . . .

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Dumfries, March 20, [*1809*].

D[r]. Sir. . . . My 6th ed. Life of Washington [2] *with a cut*, and one hundred pages more than the Italian Nun, had sold at 62½ only!! In a word, we shall *assuredly prosper*, if we get a good name. We shall as assuredly *fail* if we get the talk of the country against us. . . . Life is but a moment, I wish to fill it with usefulness which is the true Glory, & to leave my family in comfort. I beg you to understand one thing, when I sold you my Washington I reserv[d] an interest in it. I never

[1] No such changes and additions ever made, so far as I have found.

[2] Cochran, Philadelphia 1808 editions (*Bibliography*, *titles 11*, *12*).

dream'd that you meant to give any person *South* of the Delaware an interest in it injurious to mine. As to the Rev^d^ M^r^. Stone I am astonish^d^ at his conduct. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 74.
22 March [*18*]09.

I wonder who put that criticism on your Life of Washington in the Balt^o^. North American of the 18[1] . . . I hope in 12 days or a fortnight to start. To sell books is not so much to my feelings as to sell the *right* books, i.e. the best books. Among these the best books on *farming* claim our first attention. The Senator from this district, M^r^ Rich^d^ Brent (of family fortune eloquence &c &c) Call^d^ on me yesterday to advise that you immediately undertake M^r^ Arthur Youngs famous Tour thro' France, Spain, &c &c in 2 Vol^s^ 8^o^ price $4. He pronounces it the most valuable Book on earth for American Farmers. Bonaparte, he says, has had it reprinted in France at the public charge, & adds, that it has render'd immense benefits to the agricultural interest of that country. I wish you to think & to talk *privately* on this subject as also on the comparative merits of Sir Arthur Young & Boardly.[2]

L. & F. Vol. 75.
DUMFRIES. March 25. [*18*]09

D^r^ SIR. I sit down to write you a long letter. It pleases me much to find that you are getting to see things in the light in which they have long appear^d^ to me. I now & ever have enjoy'd the solace & support of principle in this most important of all human pursuits, I mean the dissemination of books. And be assur'd that with the prospect of fully gratifying my ever favorite wish my zeal is not cooling. You seem to think this grand enterprise is most to be advanc^d^ by subscription. Very greatly no doubt it is. And I agree with you, that by putting papers into 500 or 1000 hands and especially for *popular* & cheap books tho' but 5 or 6 in number, we shou'd be apt to get ourselves pretty quickly, & up to the chin too, into very good business. And I also accord that

[1] See note to letter [*postmarked 6 April*] [*1809*], concerning General Lee's authorship.

[2] *Sketches on Rotations of Crops,* by John Beale Bordley, Philadelphia, Printed by Charles Cist . . . 1792, BA.

Books Subscrib[d] for w[d] not lie so long on hand as Sale books might. But then, it ought to be remember'd that this cannot be done instantly; for you know I have the winding up of Wayne's Life of Washington &c — But admitting there was not the smallest obstacle in the way, (and this of Wayne's I consider a *mere bagatelle* as I have often stated to you,) yet I contend that in your circumstances it w[d] be immensely wrong to have but one arrow in your quiver when you cou'd have two equally feather'd & sure. You have at least 80.000 Dollars worth of books on hand. Are you so fond of them as to be resolved that they shall never leave their shelves. Why let not some of your Charity begin at home? Those blessed books well written, and printed to go abroad and enlighten & exalt mankind. And cou'd those excellent dead Authors, who have so long been lying in state in your store, but lift up their voice they w[d] break your midnight slumbers with lamentation & mourning at their doleful confinement. Well, now were you to open their prison doors & let the Captives loose, you cou'd no doubt, in way of Cartel obtain in exchange such a mass as w[d], in conjunction with those of *your own* now at press & printing, enable me with infinite ease to establish at least 150 to 200 stores of *about 200$ each.* You speak of *dead Capital.* But, in my opinion there is nothing to be dreaded on that score, provided your Capital be vested in the right books. And certainly there *are books* of that description; and of this, surely you and I must be Judges at this time of day. Indeed of this I have long been inform'd as you well know. For ever since the days of Goldsmith's Animated Nature I have been incessantly preaching to you about the *Right books.* And when I was with you in Philad[a], was I not constantly telling you that high pric[d] books and books without name wou'd not do. Our Country, said, I, is made up of the small fry. Give me a Seine of small meshes. It is but rare that I want to see an Author that stands higher than a dollar. Give me 50 Varieties, from 25 to 50 or 75 cents — *interesting subjects* — popular titles — fascinating frontispieces & showy bindings and I shall carry everything before me — especially if to these you add the Auxilliaries of numerous catalogues, & striking flourishes on the great pleasure & profits which the Farmers & their Boys & Girls may derive from education & Reading. Thank God I am now getting to be known by great numbers, who, I believe, will aid y[r] sales, especially if I cou'd

have *handsome circulars*, address'd to my numerous acquaintance Legal, Theological, Medical, Military, Agricultural, &c &c and distributed at little or no expence. I firmly believe, that, if *vigorously and steadily supported*, I shall yet be able, and, if Commerce & Cash return at no very distant period, to sell sometimes 500$ worth of books, *myself* at a single Court. But this is not to be done *at once*. Arrangements must be made — Seed collected — the best soils found out — proper husbandmen selected, in short, things conducted in the style of Bibliopolizing Bonapartes. I want you to have no *dead capital* — no books return'd — no tares & trets — back freights & the Lord knows what. I subjoin a list — rough draft.

12 Dilworth Spell[g]
12 Webster d°
12 Columb. d°
12 Universal d° [1]
6 Murray's Gram[r]. ab[d]
6 d° — d° large.
6 Am. Preceptor
6 Scotts lessons —
6 Columb. Orator [2]
6 Art of Reading —
4 School Bibles
4 Testaments
12 Am. Primer [3]
12 Childs first book [4]
3 Franklins Life.
2 Pilgrims Progress
2 Holy War —
12 Russells 7 Sermons [5]
6 Alleins Alarm
4 Rise & Progress —
6 Morse's Geography
2 Bibles No. 1.
2 —— No. 4. letter[d]
2 —— 8 Dolls
3 Preachers Bibles
6 Charlotte *cut* — 50 cents
6 Italian Nun — cut & cheap
6 Pamela

[1] *Ad.* 'New Books Just Received at the office of the Oracle . . . Universal spelling book, 25 cents . . .' *Oracle of Dauphin* (Harrisburg, Pa.), Sept. 22, 1804, PStL.

[2] '*The Columbian Orator* . . . By Caleb Bingham, A.M. . . . First Hartford, from the eighth Boston edition. Hartford: . . . 1807. Designed for a second part to the American preceptor.' LC. card catalogue.

[3] Probably an earlier edition of '*The American primer; or, An easy introduction to spelling and reading.* 4th improved edition,' Philadelphia, M. Carey, 1813, LC. There is also a Philadelphia, Anderson & Meehan, edition of uncertain date, after 1800, in the LC.

[4] '*The child's first book; being an easy introduction to spelling and reading.* Boston, . . . W. P. & L. Blake . . . 1802.' LC. card catalogue.

[5] Probably Weems' own edition of: *Sermons, on Different Important Subjects.* By Robert Russel, at Wardhurst, in Sussex. Baltimore: Printed by Samuel and John Adams, . . . for M. L. Weems. M.DCC.XCI. These were seven in number, with two prayers. (*Bibliography, title 227.*)

6 Sheridans Dictionʸ
6 Enticks dº
6 Letter Writer [1]
6 dream book
12 Chesterfield's Politeness.
12 Jest books — cheap
12 Song books — cheap

6 Bennetts letters
4 Gough improvᵈ.
4 Dilworths Assist.
24 Life of Washington
6 Robinson Crusoe.
3 Watts psalms & Hymⁿˢ.
3 Rippon[*'s Hymns.*]
3 Methodist Hymns
3 Tutors Assist.
3 Gregory's Legacy
3 Fordyce Sermons to Young Ladˢ [*Ladies*] [2]
4 Brakens farriery.
4 Vicar of Wakefield
12 Mary Findley
6 Crim. Recorder.[3]

The above wᵈ make about 190 to 200 Dollars. And a good stand chosen, with an honest Public spirited Merchant engag'd, not one book in 5 boxes wᵈ ever be returned. It is of infinite & mutual importance that a most *judicious selection* be pitchᵈ upon — I mean for the *taste*, &c. &c. in *General*. For *specialities*, the predominance of Religious, Political & other circumstances of neighborhoods must guide me.

And now I am going to tell you one thing — You advanc'd for me, for Mary Findley, Washington &ᶜ &ᶜ upwards of a 1000 Dollˢ. — This you did for me from motives disinterested (except on Washington's Life on which I pay you 4 cents pr. book) and waiting to be paid out *of the sales*. For this I thank'd you, for you coud have made more than four cents pr. book on your money — barring your trouble — But to make short of a long story — skipping over what monies you advanc'd for me — and what monies I have sent you — and also what monies you [*have*] since sent me & also what you promisd me for Washington which will, I verily believe, in 10 years bring you in, & me also, a great

[1] '*The universal letter-writer; or, whole art of polite correspondence* . . . new edition, cor. and enl. Philadelphia, M. Carey, 1810.' LC. card catalogue.

[2] Rev. James Fordyce's *Sermons to Young Women* advertised as 'in the press' in fly leaves of Carey's ninth edition of *Washington*, 1809. A Philadelphia 1809 edition listed in *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, LC.

[3] *The Criminal Recorder; or, An Awful Beacon To the Rising Generation of both Sexes, Erected by the Arm of Justice, to persuade them from the dreadful miseries of guilt.* Collected from authentic documents, By a friend of man [*Mathew Carey*]. With six copperplate engravings. Philadelphia: Printed for Mathew Carey, No. 122, High-street, 1810. NYHS.

deal — But in brief, I want for absolutely necessary purposes of *repairs* for my house 200 Doll[s]. A [*small?*] sum & *no sum* to you, but immensely important to me at this time. Send me this by return of mail & you shall hear no more about money for 6 months I promise you. And but for the detention here I shou'd not have wanted a cent — But from this bagatelle, this dust on the ballance, this mote in the Solar concave, let me turn your attention to the mighty enterprise before you. Content not yourself with one string to your bow when you can have two!! I repeat, that if Heaven shou'd restore the ancient order of things, Peace & Plenty, the good that you may do & the money that you may make, may greatly exceed anything that you first thought of. Weigh well my plan — SUBSCRIPTIONS & ORDERS hold perhaps the first place in my expectations — And next, metamorphose a great deal of your present stock — cut down your heavy ships into smaller craft — Turn (in the language of Vulcan) your old Sows into Pigs — I shall write again — I have a world to say.

L. & F. Vol. 79.

DUMFRIES, Mar. 27. [*18*]09.

. . . I have sold my old stage & wrote to you for some money (for Washington) part of which is to get me a good light sulky *for despatch.* In 3 or 4 days I shall have all the books here nearly ready for the up-country stores & elsewhere. I shall place them in the best assortments I possibly can, from 250 to 500 each — With Francis Mantz of *Frederick*, & other *large towns* I shall have establishments near 1000 Dol[s] each. It is in this way that I think it advisable to work off the heavy Books now on hand; after their exit I wd advise by ten thousand arguments & intreaties that you send none but the *sure card books.* Why shoul'd we toil day & night & catch nothing? I tremble & mourn for I know where the blame will light. You know and will do me Justice to say that I was always for the *small fry*, ad captandum books — Since all depends upon your sending me the *right books*, & since school books will constitute *one-third* of that description, I know you will keep an eye continually to the augmentation of stock of that sort. A rich man in this neighbourhood, M[r]. Tho[s] Chapman, who has promis'd to buy a good many books

of me, begs I w^d^ get him a ticket in the 2^d^ Baptist Church *grand* lottery. Class N° 2 which commences drawing on the 29^th^ April . . . I inclose the money 25$. Please purchase & *send instantly*. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 74.
DUMFRIES, Ap^l^. 3^d^ 1809.

. . . A Treatise (*on Agriculture*) altogether American w^d^ do better. Such a book well wrought up, & none better than you can have it so done, w^d^ do more good to the nation & to yourself than any that you ever yet touch^d^. Recollect, the Nation is Agricultural. That is their true character for Health, Wealth Peace, Plenty & all our other Republican Blessings. Such a book w^d^ interest 3 4ths of the Citizens of every state in the Union. Only start this book under whip & spur of Jefferson, Maddison, Munroe & other[*s of*] our greatest men, who are all agricultural, and you w^d^ get the whole nation to jump with you. Suppose you get out such a book, say at 4 Doll^s^. multiply this by 10, to 20000 *Sub^s^*. of which there is a MOST DEAD CERTAINTY. My God! Only think what a Concentration of Exertion & Wealth . . .

Well, so much for that affair. I now turn to one more agreable. I wrote to you that one of the firstrate Senators in Congress Rich^d^. Brent Esq. had call^d^ on me recommending the Great Arthur Young's Tour. Of this you have taken no notice. I do not say that Arthur Young is the man. Perhaps Bordley, improv'd with Moore,[1] & choice selections from the Agricultural Societies of New York and other places — a treatise altogether American.

L. & F. Vol. 75.
[*Postmarked Dumfries, 6 April*] [*1809.*]

Subjoin^d^ is the Baltimore criticism (that we were talking about) on your Washington[2] . . . I sometimes read your letters with great pleasure,

[1] Probably the Thomas Moore referred to in letter [*postmarked 6 April*] [*1809*], following.

[2] General Lee's commendation of the *Life of Washington*, first printed in the *North American* (Baltimore), Mar. 18, 1809 (see *Bibliography, title 13, note 4*), and used on the title page of the ninth edition 1809 and thereafter (*Bibliography, titles 17 et seq.*).

at other times with great pain. One day you are gay as Hope, the next as gloomy as Dispair. But the Prospect before us is the same, and, as it ever has been, immensely flattering to the Prudent & Persevering — Our Country is of vast extent — of population great & greatly increasing & daily getting more & more insulated and dependent for Literary food on the Industry & Enterprise of its own Citizens. As to myself, I feel the High Responsibility & Enviableness of my situation — a situation that ever was and still is the most delectable to me. I believe in the perfectibility of Human Nature, and tho' I do not wish nor ever affected a wish that N° 1 sh[d] be overlook[d] in the general scramble, yet I certainly desire the Happiness of Mankind (& chiefly of my *Own Country*.) As the main chance and Knowledge as a principal *means*. And as to you, you well know that I always begg[d] you to take it as a thing granted that in this undertaking your success, and especially on a *large scal*[*e*], w[d] be a *work of time*, a mushroom may spring up in a night; but a capital harvest of fine wheat comes but once a year. I always griev'd that you shou'd keep such an immensity of property (in books) piled up in such unproductive pyramids. Break these down into small popular prices which the narrow & feeble vortices of Plebean purses may draw in. Nothing w[d] make me more unhappy than to hear that you had got into any the least embarrassment. No! Work off the big books into little ones, & as much as possible into the best & most approv[d] & necessary School-books. And for Heaven's sake, look out for the Trumps. I mean, large books of Peculiar Interest & Claim on the Multitude. Many years ago, when you were multiplying subscription papers for *small books*, I said "undertake the Family Bible — the Protestant Family Bible. 'Tis the Alcoran of Our Faith. All will have it. The Virginian will give up his Tobacco & the Yankee his molasses for it." 'Twas 2 years before you w[d] believe me. Well, now, you see, you have set up a four-wheel'd [*chariot?*] upon the strength of it, beside feeding saints & sinners God knows how many. Well, now I say to you, next to the book that treats of Spiritual Food, that which promises the best and largest Bread to the nation will (as it well deserves) be the most *run after*. The Hon[b]. M[r]. Brent, whom I mentioned to you because he is unquestionably a man of the first mind and Instruction, gave it as his opinion, last night, that if you cou'd employ M[r]. Tho[s]. Moore Mont-

gomery County Maryland, or some such *sensible practical* farming Character to compile from *Spurrier's*, *Peters' Agricultural Magazine*, and all other good Writers (American) and prepare a Complete Digest on that most important of all Earthly Arts & Sciences, *Husbandry*, with a popular title & such Recommendations as you cou'd easily procure from *our greatest men*, you w^d^ be doing a service to your Country deserving Immortal Praise. and as to pecuniary compensation, I verily believe I shou'd be able throughout the U. States, to procure you from 10 to 20000 subscrib^s^. I fear you will not soon see this work in the light of Importance to which above almost all others it is entitled. Heavy Trump Cards! Oh it is a great thing. It is everything. . . . I shall run up to distribute at Alexan^a^ Geo.town & Federal City . . .

Attend., Weigh & ponder & instantly set about what I have said of the Book of Books, the Agricultural Alcoran, Bible & as above stated. It will go near to make your fortune. I have a plan of managing it beyond what you think of. Write — I shall be back in seven days, & then for Alexan^a^.

L. & F. Vol. 75.
Ap. 20. 1809.

. . . My Life of Marion is done. My friends to whom I have read parts of the work are pleas^d^ to say it will do. Had I better get it printed in Philad^a^ or Baltimore? . . .

L. & F. Vol. 75.
DUMFRIES, May 4, [*18*]09

D^r^. SIR: . . . As to Washington, I am glad you have got it finished and will soon be ready to furnish *any quantity*. In the 1^st^ place I w^d^ advise by all means to get a great number of Advertisements containing all or the *best* of the good things that have been said in its favor,[1] & printed on a large Folio page, and attached to paste boards, one or two of which, shou'd go to each store whither I shall direct the Books & at the rate of one for every 50 books, & a supplement of *one sheet without*

[1] Probably to be extracted from the various commendations of his *Life of Washington* first printed in the Carey edition of 1809 (*Bibliography, title 17*).

the paste board to every 20. You know I always told you that I w^d^ by no means sell myself out of all interest in this work, & you gave me your promise that I shou'd have the distribution of it in all places South of Philad^a^, your book store in Balt^o^ excepted. Well, I shall want as follows, — and consign^d^ to Richmond. . . .

'The Rev. *Mason L. Weems*, will deliver a discourse, this Evening, at the *Methodist Meeting-house*, at early candle light.'

Virginia Herald (Fredericksburg), May 10, 1809, LC.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES May 20, 1809

. . . To be *doing*, is nothing, to *do right*, is all. . . . My favorite plan is to play a sure *card* sort of game . . . See Parson Bell. He gave me a list of books, *chiefly religious* and polemical for the Church of England, & its *baptisms*, *sacraments* & the Lord knows what. You lost the list & then sent him a list of your own, which so astonish^d^ & alarm'd him that for fear of bringing himself into trouble he sent the books back. . . . Cou'd you but allow me time I wou'd manage the matter *properly*. I wou'd have in *every neighbourhood* within 200 miles of this place, a *small assortment*, and of such books as w^d^ exactly suit that neighbourhood. Presbyterians shou'd have Watts, Davies, Doddridge &c &c, and so with all the various tastes, *trades*, &c &c not forgetting nor neglecting Miller's, Distillers, Sow *gelders* &c &c. But this way that you are getting into of *pushing off*, *pushing off* in this lumping haphazzard random shot style, will *never never* answer. For God's sake let us do business *prosperously*. That alone can give us a temper of mind to enjoy this life & prepare for a better. . . .

. . . In the exchanges you are about to make attend above all things to a complete & large Assortment of school books. Geographies — Dictionaries large & small, Dream books — *If possible*, the right *Methodist* hymn books — *Rippons* ditt^o^ small & cheap. Russels 7 Sermons — Saints Rest. Doddrid[*g*]es Rise & Prog, Whitfields Sermons, Alleins Alarm — Call to the unconverted — Pilgrims prog. Holy War, Doddridge Sermons — Watts sermons — Psalms — ditt^o^ & hymns, Power

of Religion,[1] Bennets letters — Fordyce's Sermons *to young Ladies*, Gregory's legacy, Dodsleys fables,[2] Zion's travels. &c &c. Constant attention to these things — with strenuous exertion to work off your present stock — and judiciously extending our Commerce and Credit & Cash by honest & politic use of our Friends means (as now urged) and most active distribution of subscription papers for some *large Popular work* (say Agricultural) with service [*of*] *ad captandum smaller pieces* — And keeping all this secret to Ourselves, may in the course of 3 years get you into a Business honorable & Advantageous beyond what you ever expected. . . .

Let me intreat you to attend to the proposition which makes a main part of this long epistle. As there is no chance that I shall ever leave you, provided you continue to treat me generously, then for your own sake make me as much as possible the Object of *Public Attention & confidence* for supplying books. Don't compel me to deny books when there are *thousands of books* which the Printers w^d^ gladly commit to me and not only without risk or loss, but with profit to you on your speaking to them of me in the language of your *dealing* i.e. *confiding* in me. You well know that I have touched no book nor subscription paper for any person. And cou'd you furnish those myriads of school books &^c^. &^c^. that will be wanted, God is witness & you well know it, that I w^d^ not look at a book tender'd by any other hand. But since you cannot, *yet awhile* do it, and since those books must be furnishd by somebody else to our disadvantage, & might be furnish'd by *me* to our mutual benefit, then I pray you to make arrangements accordingly. Mind I forbid all idea of losing one moment of time about their books. All I mean is to fix upon *proper* agents, study or find out the character & taste of the Neighbours, Make out a proper catalogue. If you have them not, get them, without *any commitment* of yourself; fill up the vacant spaces of the boxes with surplus books of *your own* thus killing 2 birds at a throw on a large scale & safe. Among other books Black's Chemistry

[1] *The Power of Religion on the Mind, . . .* By Lindley Murray. . . . New-York . . . 1808. LC.

[2] *Select Fables of Esop and other fabulists.* In three books. . . . By Robert Dodsley [*1703–1764*]. . . . A new edition. Philadelphia. Printed and Sold by Joseph Crukshank. . . . M DCC LXXXVI. LC. An edition is listed in *Catalogue of Books, Printed for, and sold by Mathew Carey, . . .* in back of the 10th edition, 1810, of Weems' *Life of Washington*, NYPL.

is much wanted here. Also the Rev. Ja^s. Releys Trial of the Spirits — Salt of the Sacrifice — Murray (the Universalist) [1] his works. Chevalier Ramsays Nat & Reveal^ed Religion.[2] And Petit Pierre's "Goodness of God"[3] I am tormented for Universalist's books. Have my tickets, in the grand lottery of useful arts, come to any good. Prithee send & see. N^os 3d.74d. 3d.749. 3d.751. 3d 752. 3d.753. As to printing Marion. I beg you to be assured I shall never owe you one Doll^r on any account whatever.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES. May 22, [*18*]09.

SIR, Tho I wrote to you yesterday, I may be doing no harm to write to you today. You are going on a long cruise and considering the course you mean to steer, I take it you'll soon be in the latitude of some of the greatest sharpers in Am^a, I mean the Yankee Printers & Booksellers. Men with long faces & no consciences, who, if they durst, w^d offer you one of their John Rogers primers for one of your Morocco Family Bibles. I pray you take a reef or two in your openness & generosity & try if you can't look up as near to the wind as those smooth sanctified Saints.

Hear my reasons. Every new beginner behind the counter writes "Cheap Store" on his sign. He well knows that among our Christian Mammonites cheapness is everything. What made Lackington in Moorefields? Cheapness. What made Rob. Campbell Philad^a.? Cheapness. And here to'ther day in Fredericksb^g a School Master w^d not touch Murray's Grammar at 87½ cents, because he said Johnson at *Richmond* furnish^d them at 75. Thus you see a Man, tho' wanting a book w^d wait for some random opportunity to send 80 miles for it, rather than "THROW AWAY" as he said, 12 cents!! I *tell* you Cheapness is a great thing even to *one store*, what then must be its effect on 2 to 300 stores.

"Here's a FAMOUS BOOK, Tom," — says one of the throng at a Courthouse — "begad you ought *to get one*."

[1] John Murray, 1741–1815, the first Universalist minister in Boston.

[2] Ramsay, Andrew Michael [*Chevalier de*] — *Philosophical Principles of Natural and Revealed Religion.* . . . Glasgow, 1748, LC.

[3] *Thoughts on the Divine Goodness, Relative to the Government of Moral Agents,* . . . Translated from the French of Ferdinand Oliver Petitpierre . . . Walpole, N. H. . . . Thomas & Thomas . . . 1801. LC.

"Indeed!" replies the other — "And do you think it will *divarte me?*"

"*Yes I'll be d—d if it wont to the nicest,*" quoth the first, "*and besides, 'tis a quarter of a dollar cheaper than they ask'd me for it there in Richmond!*"

"*The Devil you say!*"

"*Yes, I'll go to h—ll if it isn't.*"

"Well now I'll be d—n-d if I w^d^n't buy one if I had but the money."

"Oh d—n my Soul if you shall miss it for want of that, while I have it you know Tom, So here's the Ryno."

Such ranting dialogues have I heard a thousand times when my books have been pronounc'd "*a heap cheaper*" (as they say) than elsewhere. But however prais'd the books, or how near so ever to sell yet if any croaking voice has said, "well, never mind it now, you may get it a good deal cheaper at Cottom & Stewarts," the Higglers have shut up at once & gone off like a flock of Rooks that had just taken scent of the Fowlers powder. Therefore in *all* your exchanges, but particularly for school books, study cheapness. And for Mercy's sake, deal as little as possible in books which, as you once said, "*may or may not sell.*" Why in God's name shou'd we be sowing pebbles when we may get good wheat. If you have not enough of good wheat now you soon may get it.

I have another thing to observe to you. Your late unbounded Confidence in me is to my feelings a glorious proof that you think me Honest. Yes thank God I've been honest to you, & still am honest — honest to your past interests and also to *your future*, for proof of this last, let me suggest an idea which tho' it may at first startle, will, I am sure, when weigh^d^ be found sterling. I fear you have not, indeed you have lately told me that you have not of your present stock say 80 to 100.000 Doll^s^ worth a 5^th^ part that will suit our business — perhaps, of the best *school books* &^c^. not a tenth part of your stock, i.e. not above 8 or 10 000 Doll^s^. Now at the propos'd average of 2 to 250 Doll^s^ in a store, this w^d^ not make 50 stores. Now we want *300 stores!* I mean 300 *Vivacious*, *Productive* stores — compos'd e.g. of the Best school books — Dictionaries — Geographies — Popular histories — novels — voyages, travels — Medical Books — Law ditt^o^. &^c^. &^c^. &^c^. As you have not, you say, a *fifth part* of these books that is not above 10 to 15000 Doll^s^ worth and yet I coud very easily in my extensive rides (for I have now a light gig & good horse for dispatch — *to distribut*[*e*] *subscription papers*)

establish 2 to 300 stores, making, at the rate of 300 Dollˢ to a store, from 60 to 90,000 Dollˢ. Now tho' you have not, yet *a while*, of your own a sufficiency of the above, *rapidly selling* books, they may be easily procur'd in a way that will benefit us both. For you see that tho I am a free man and can do as I please, yet I like to hold on in that fair and honorable way that I have, as you know, always observed with you. I say that much may be done for us both in this way. Numbers of Booksellers have spoken to me to sell books for them; you *heard* good old Mʳ. Cruckshank ask me, and also profer me in your store the same premium that you give. Several others have done it. But, as you know, I refused. Now if out of true love for me & for *yourself*, for so it will presently be seen to operate, you were, on receiving orders from me for books which you have not, to let Cruckshank or Ben Johnson (for both have applied to me as also others) furnish them on the same terms that you do furnish, I shall be willing to allow you 4 or 5 cents in the dollar on all that I sell — tho, as you know, you are not to run any risk nor incur any cost at all in the matter, yet you shall have 4 to 5 cents pʳ dollʳ. Besides that, I pledge my word & sacred honor that whatever monies I may make in this way shall be at your service to be laid out for our mutual good, and on conditions of your *own proposing*. And also it is a thing most obvious to us both, that as fast as you shall be able to work yourself into Books of the RIGHT SORT, equal to *our consumption*, this foreign *aid* shall be droppᵈ and none but your *own books shall be acted on*. 300 book stores were contemplated by us *both*. At each of these I wᵈ like, by *all means*, to have the books mentioned in a former list, say — Columb. Webster & *Univ.* spellᵍ [*book*] each 12. Colum. Orators — Scotts Lessons — Preceptors — Readers — Dictionˢ — Pike's, Goughs. & Dilworths Arithmetics — Geographies — each 6. Now suppose that of these books of *first necessity* & *surest*, *quickest sale*, you have not one half enough, then let your friend Cruckshank or any other friend make up a box, which after *half filling* with those books you may make up with Letter Writers, Bennet, Roman Histories — Washington's life — Mary Findleys, &ᶜ. &ᶜ. *all your own*.

Now mark your own great interest in this affair. I have given you abundant proof of my devotedness to your *welfare*. And you have no reason to think that I mean ever to leave you while you make it, even

tolerably, my interest to stand by you. Well, whatever makes *me*, as *a Furnisher of books*, an object of Public attention and Confidence is proportionably to your good. Let the Public be satisfied that they can, at a short notice, be supplied by me and at Philad[a] prices, with any book that is to be had in America, and the calls on me will be immense. Travelling so extensively as I do, and so universally *acquainted*, and with People of all Ranks & Characters so intimate what might I not do if properly supported by you? If Gentlemen of all sorts & professions found that I never disappointed their impatient wishes for a favorite book, but always came forward, at the appointed time, with their long coveted Author, and of the *right edition*, and even *cheaper* than they expected, how soon w[d] the finger of the Public be pointed to me as — "*The proper Man to get Books of!*" And not only the profit, but the praise of all w[d] *chiefly* come to you, for everybody knows that I am but your Agent in this Affair. But to be going on as I am now is extremely disheartening & hurtful to us both, but chiefly to you. Lawyers, Doctors, Divines &[c]. &[c]. call on me for Books. I give my promise that by such a time they shall have them. I write to you. You have them not of *your own*. The allowance made by the Printer will not afford a division of the profit. In short the Books are not got. Well, in evil hour & with aching heart I go my rounds thro' the neighbourhoods of my friends. With joy in their faces they run out and tell me they are mighty glad to see me and ask for *their books*. "I've *none*." They get angry. Thus I lose all character, and come to be thought of as a poor Barbary Sheep promising wool but bearing none.

Printers & Booksellers have been constantly importuning me to assist them in getting off their books. I promis'd you I w[d] not, nor have I in a single instance done it. And now I am pointing out a way whereby I may be daily advancing to a state of far greater usefulness to *you in future* and not without *much present advantage*. For if when I make out a list for a box for any particular place which shall always be done with an eye to the character of the People, — or when I send orders for books which you have not, you were to inform your friends who have such books — and if they, on such information and on such account as you may think proper to give me, shoud chuse to send on their books to my order; you shall tho' not in *the least responsible*, have such an interest

as above in all that I sell. You shall also have the use of the monies for application to our mutual good. And no interference at all shall be allow[d] between *such books & yours* — nor shall any such books be used by us one day after you shall have gotten sufficient stock of your own to answer the demand.

The truth is we must be getting into large supplies of the Right Books, Pyramids of Wrong Books (such as Miller's Retrospect [1] — & Dinmen's Midwifery [2] — and Staunton's embassy &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. &[c].) will answer no other end but to disappoint & fret us both & keep us always poor.

L. & F. Vol. 75.
GEORGETOWN May 30, 1809.

. . . I mean to make some little flourish in the National Intelligencer. . . .[3]

L. & F. Vol. 75.
DUMFRIES June 5, 1809.

. . . God knows there is nothing I so dread as *Dead stock*, *dull sales*, back *loads*, and *blank looks*. But the Joy of my soul is quick & clean sales — Heavy pockets, and light hearts. . . .

Yours most respectfully,

L. & F. Vol. 75.
DUMFRIES. June 8, 1809.

D[r]. SIR. . . . This moment I set off for the western Counties where, I hope to complete, nearly at least, the establishments for *all the books now on hand* — & in this Country. Then stand by for a busy & I pray God a profitable summer Campaign.

[1] *A Brief retrospect of the eighteenth century, containing a brief sketch of the revolutions and improvements in science, arts, and literature, during that period*, by Samuel Miller, A.M., N. York, 1803, LC. Listed in *Carey's Catalogue*, 1818, title 444, LC.

[2] *An Introduction to the Practice of Midwifery*. By Thomas Denman, M.D., Licentiate in midwifery of the College of Physicians, . . . Brattleborough, Vt. Published by William Fessenden, 1807. AAS.

[3] Nothing found in the daily, May 31–July 31 [AAS.], nor in the tri-weekly, May 15–Aug. 9, 1809, BPL.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

WINCHESTER. June 22. 1809.

Dr. SIR, Hoping that you are nearly returnd by this time, I write this to inform that I am here & have here been for ten days past in the mountains & vallies of this fine Country establishing Book stores for you. With Mr. Joseph Gamble[1] Merchts. & Merchts. Taylor of this place, a Pillar of the Presbyterian Church, a man Wealthy & *most honest*, I have left the following books on a 15 pr cent commission &c &c. After glancing over the catalogue you will read what follows — for it is important — . . .

My mind is fixd on "*Hunters sacred biography.*" Let me know instantly, to *Dumfries*, what you can print 2000 copies for on a *good*, *thick*, *fine* paper & neat binding. I have a notion I can do more for this book than you are aware of — Can't you get a *short striking preamble to it* [*in a*] subscription paper? . . . Remember Hunter.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES. July 3d. 1809.

Dr. SIR, I am just return'd from a trip over the Mountains — a trip at all times rough & wearrisome, but more than commonly so in this sultry season, when torrid suns & torrid rocks are both most charitably exerting themselves to scorch a poor fellows brain or to jolt his bones thro his skin. God only knows how this affair may work in the present life, but if after so many privations & hardships for the MUSES, they do not pay us well in the next, I'm sure they must be a pack of ungrateful Hussies. But to the point, I have establishd *nearly the whole* of the books that were sent here, and at the followg places — Leesburg — Middleburg — Gumsprings — Navy Yard — Fredericktown — Shepherdtown — Martinsburg — Charleston — Battletown — Winchester — Newtown — Front Royal — Washington (*Culpepper*) — Fanquier Court House — . . .

2d point. Hunters Sacred Biography is a Divine Work. Such Learn-

[1] 'An Act Incorporating the Farmers' Bank of Virginia. . . . 5. Books of subscription . . . shall be opened on the first Monday in April next . . . under the superintendence of . . . In Winchester, . . . Joseph Gamble . . . 6. The persons above appointed commissioners . . .' *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Feb. 27, 1812, AAS.

ing, Piety, & Imagination hardly ever yet met together — and certainly a subject so Popular & Interesting was never before stumbled upon — I mean the painting of the Sacred Characters. As to myself, I am enchanted with it. And I am happy to find that the Clergy think & speak of it as I do. If I err not most egregiously, Great things may be done with this Book. One or two of the editions that I have seen are abominable. Both the Ladies and the Clergy will exert themselves for this most popular work — but they want a handsome edition. What can you print a handsome edition for? This Book with a good one on HUSBANDRY at 3, or 4 Doll^{s}, — w^{d} make a couple of noble FIRST RATES — With respect to HUNTER, how w^{d} it do in 8 Vol^{s} duod^{o} and [*on*] a *lovely paper* & Lackington, i.e., *showy*, binding, at ten Doll^{s}. Religious books ought to be made as *beautiful* as possible to captivate the more.

Point the 3^{d}. No man on earth hates wrangling more than I do & yet I am afraid I shall have more or less of it as long as I live; and partly for lack of entering things when they occur. For example, I intended and you consented that for *one half* of the copy granted to an Adjutant for procuring & distributing, say 8, or, 9, or 10 Copies, you w^{d} contribute. Yes you agreed that it w^{d} be hard that I who get but 25 pr cent shou'd out of that pay to my Aids 10 or 12½ per Cent; and therefore you said you w^{d} divide the expence. 'Tis true, no such division was ever ask^{d} or ever agreed to about the stores, because as some of those books may after all our best efforts be obligd to be taken back, and at *your cost* it seem^{d} but right that the profit shou'd fall there chiefly where the chief loss might. Therefore, nothing was ever said by me on that part of the business, but you *agreed* that you w^{d} do your part in the subscription business as above stated — You also promisd that the boxes were not to be charg'd to me. It is true they are so understood in our written agreement, *impliedly*, and when I mention'd it to you, you agreed to it. I shou'd have observ^{d} that I suppose you the more readily agreed to an allowance on the *subscriptions*, as in that way it was not likely that many of the books w^{d} ever return upon your hands. As to the book Store business, I am satisfied, tho' I give, often, 15 out of my 25 pr cent. In consequence of your suffering nearly the whole of the Children & Chap book business to be monopoliz'd by Friend Johnson he is now underselling all the Trade. In Charleston, where I fix^{d} a store

for you, I found a Book store of Friend Jacobs, to the Widow Keeper of which he gives 25 per cent. I was oblig[d] to give *15* per cent to a very good man, but I am afraid it will not last longer than this Gentleman can get books from M[r]. Johnson at, 25 pr cent. It is true that M[r]. J. cannot run beyond his tether which is but short; & therefore he can do us but little harm. But still I am vex'd that you shou'd allow him such an infernal profit on his Chap & Toy books as to enable him to give for sell[g] only a *box*, as much as you can afford for endeavors to sell *myriads*.

. . . You will find Catalogues (*printed*) a great help. Each store sh[d] have 2 to 300 to stick up at x roads, Blacksmith shops, Mills, taverns, &c and to send out with every book that is sold — *Noise* is a *great matter*. I wish all success to this grand enterprize, therefore, shall be willing to make sacrifices. So please put at the head of the *printed* hand bill — "For sale here (at the Philadelphia prices, *warranted*) the following books ["] &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. &[c]. I pray you to put 2 to 300 in *every box*. . . .

Pray tell me the fate of my 5 tickets in the lottery of useful arts, &[c]. &[c].

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES. July 8, 1809.

D[r]. SIR. I did not expect that my next w[d] have been dated from this place. Heaven knows it was not my wish. But neither wishes nor expectations can avail much against the, *perhaps*, destin'd course of things. Tossing & tumbling in the mountains, and in a miserably hard going gigg, has brought on me a severe hemorrhoidal complaint under which I have been grinning [*groaning?*] & squealing here for five days. But I hope the worst of the weather is over and that I shall soon be able to shew canvass again. . . . Write instantly.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

BALT[o]. July 12, 1809

The wind is fair, & in two hours I sail. In the interim I hasten to tell you that I have appointed three good Agents here for the sale of the Life of Washington. I have left 25 Copies with Dobbin and Murphy [1] —

[1] G. Dobbin and Murphy printed William Fry's *Baltimore Directory* for 1810 for the publishers.

20 with Mr. Abner Neall[1] a Methodist Preacher & Bookseller, & 3 with a Captain Thorndick Chase, Fells. point, Balto. . . .

I shd be glad to know in your next how many Copies you have of Washington subject to my Orders. This book, owing to the great weight of his name, may be made productive of more money to you than any other small work, especially if the times shd come hard. I have in my mind à plan to extend the sales greatly.

I hope now that I am perfectly clear of all pain again, thank God, to renew my exertions with great vigour & success. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES July 14 1809

. . . I have gotten for your Agent as honest & rich a Merchant as any that Fredericktown contains. Tho' a Dutchman & a bad speller of English he will do you good.[2] . . . Oh for plenty of neat catalogues! — *Warranted* at *Philadelphia prices*. Be that your headpiece & motto. . . . Wod it not be well to desire Mr. Mantz to insert 3 times *only* in the 2 papers of that town (*Fed.* & *Rep.*) a *one* square advertisement. "Just opend by Francis Mantz a very valuable assortment of &c &c &c &c warranted at Philadelphia prices ["] — & headed "A NEW BOOK STORE IN FREDERICKTOWN!" I suppose you might send him 30 of your Washington. I sold nearly 100 there — but it seems more are wanted — put into the box an elegant pasteboard advertisement of Washington with a likeness — also of Mary Findley. — Do all, via *Baltimore*.

You ask me how many boxes I can dispose of this summer. Why as my Hemorrhoidal inflammation is subsiding, I hope soon to be on the road again. I think that with the Books already sent, I can easily & *advantageously* set out 40.000 Dolls by the 1st of Novem. or as you said of December . . . I may pluck some fruit as I go along [*and*] establish some choice stores at Southhampton — Murfreesboro — Halifax — Warrenton — Williamsboro — Louisville — Tarboro — Charlotteville — Salisbury — Guilford C. House. Hillsboro &c &c.

[1] *The Washington Almanac, For the Year of our Lord, 1811* . . . Baltimore: Printed for . . . Abner Neal . . . AAS.

[2] Possibly Matthias Bartgis, who printed Weems' *Washington* in 1801, and (in German) in 1809.

The *festina lente* is a great thing — mind that and your enterprize in a year or two's time will spread abroad like a green bay tree by the courses of water.

. . . Were it not better that I advise all the Agents to remit direct to you as fast as their Collections make 20 or 30 Dollars? This sending money to me, and I perhaps a fortnight or month out of the way, and then sending to you, is double risk, double postage & Delay all which I mortally hate.

We are losing a world of time about subscription papers — much talk[d] & nothing done. Had I had handsome, *popular*, ad captandum subscription papers for Bennets letters, I coud by this time have gotten 2000 names. I pray you do something instantly about Bennet — & let me do something with Hunter. Great Love to M[rs]. C & Family.

vid. infra

Had I the mass of commendations of my book I think I coud work up the Prospectus more to my mind — perhaps as much to the humour of the Public. You had better try me on Bennet.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES July 23. 1809

Tis to me a matter of infinite trouble that so little has been done yet. But I look forward with great hopes that better things await us. I am now, thank God, so well again that I am all in readiness to start tomorrow morning. My course is towards Annapolis & several smaller towns in Maryland. By the time I return I shall, I hope, have the pleasure to hear such good news of the boxes shipp[d] for Fredericksb[g] &c &c as to allow me to dash up into the Western Counties. Hunter, you certainly must have. Be assured there never was a book so well calculated to increase the sale of your Bibles. And if you will but read the Biographies of Hannah & Ruth you will say that not even Bennets Letters will do so much good. . . . Besides my Gigg, I have got a good road horse for dispatch when I travel over hilly or mountainous roads, so that in two weeks from this, I hope to dash off at a good rapid rate. . . . If

I had some good materials such as you command, I think I coud draw up a most ad captandum book *on Dreams*.[1]

. . . Gass's Journal is ask[d] for. In your catalogue it w[d] be well to amplify —, about the *Great Missouri*, — Companion *of Major Lewis*[2] &[c]. &[c]. It will you know startle *curiosity* without [*which*] this People will feel no interest. apropos. Direct to R. Worthington Co. Merch[ts]. Shepherdstown. Let the layers of paper between the books be thick for 'tis a *long* & *rough road*. I tell you again that *Salisbury* No. Carolina will be a noble stand — & Gen[l]. Steel the safest hand in the world. . . . Is it not better first to supply the larger Viscera before we inundate the Extremities? Subscriptions are the main thing, then for Heavens sake give not sleep to thine eyes nor slumber to thine eye lids till thou have Hunter, Goldsmith & 8 Dollar calf gilt or Red Morocco Bible . . . The Multitude are immensely partial to *Calf binding*. I pray you to attend to M[r] Chapmans *tickets* — also to mine in the lottery of useful arts &c. Keep your eye on the agricultural work. 'twill do Infinite Good to the nation — Great monies to yourself. There is a book now almost out of print, by a large edition of which you may do infinite good. I mean The *Tales of the Genii*. With a sprightly ad captandum preamble, the subscription for this w[d] be immensely successful.

You may do Great Good by turning the attention of some one of your young medical friends to *rationalize* the Art of Farriery both as to Theory & Practice. 'Tis at present a most cursed Jargon of Ignorance, superstition & Quackery. The Physiology of the horse is the same as of Man. A subject of the same laws, and kill[d]. & cur'd by the same causes. Some are the Friends of Woman, some of Child[n]. I pray you make yourself of Horses.

[1] Although the evidence might prove that eventually Weems did print a book on dreams (*Bibliography, title 238*), I have never been able to find a copy. I think it very unlikely that the book alluded to in his letter [*n.d. received Apr. 15, 1813*] was one of his own compilations, but rather that it was a reprint of one of the many well-known books on the subject.

[2] *Journal of the Voyages and Travels of a Corps of Discovery, under the Command of Capt. Lewis and Capt. Clarke . . . During the years 1804, 1805, and 1806* . . . by Patrick Gass . . . Third Edition — With Ten Engravings . . . Printed for Mathew Carey . . . 1811. BPL.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

HERRING BAY, Aug. 3d, 1809

I told you in my last of 10 days ago that I was about to start towards Annapolis &c. &c. Some little remain of my hemorrhoidal uneasiness has caus[d] me to move but slowly Yet, however I have found one good place, Huntingtown in Calvert County Maryland. About 500 Dollars will do. please, observe that the People about there are mix[d] a good deal with Episcopalians & Methodists . . . Please consign the books to M[r]. Gustavus Weems,[1] care of Francis D. McHenry Merch[t]. County Wharf Balt[o] . . .

Did you think of rationalizing a Farriery.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

BALTIMORE, Aug. 7, 1809.

. . . The other assortment for Annapolis shou'd amount to one thousand Doll[s]. at least. Tis the Metropolis, & the Legislature sits there, there's a world of gay sinners there who will want new novels — Legislators to purchase Politics &. &. and a great many children & Saints who will need their appropriate books. Stationary sh[d] not be forgotten I tell you again as I have told you often that I do not stand upon any great allowance for this article —

I beg to remind you that these books [*for Friendship*] must be directed to Mess[rs]. Ridgeley & Weems merch[ts]. Annapolis . . . You promis[d] to exchange none of your Life of Washington, nor to sell, but thro' *my agency*, except in your Balt[o]. bookstore *South of Philad[a]*. Warner & Hanna will apply to you. But I know you will negative the proposition. I wanted to let them have what few remains [*sic*] of my edition on hand, that I might be perfectly disengag[d] but they said they w[d] get from *you*. Tho' the Jews had agreed to exchange untill told by me that you had printed an 8[th] edition . . . Your Parson Abbot tells me he does well with Washington. . . .

Y[rs].

[1] This Weems has never been identified by me.

L. & F. Vol. 75.
Balt°. Aug. 12. 1809.

I had several objects in view in coming to this place; one of them was to see M^r. Lea,[1] the Author of several celebrated & popular medicines which go by his name. I once wrote to you on this subject. Then, as also, *now* I think it well worth your attention. In the first place, you may do great good. Tis true that some of his medicines are mere Catch-penny nostrums, such I know them and therefore w^d have *nothing* to do with them — but others are sovereign remedies and of virtues gratefully attested by thousands who have been essentially & substantially benefited by them, such, e,g, are his Antibilious Pills — his worm Lozenges — his Ague Drops, and Itch Ointment. I pray you laugh not. Now, and *secondly*, to the point You may make much money by them. He will give 30 pr Cent. You will allow me 10 to our agents & reserve 10 to yourself, which will, I am morally certain, pay a large *part of the Expence* connected with your ponderous & costly undertaking. And this you can do without *risking* or *losing* one cent . . . Besides, remember that among the numbers running to your Bookstores for his Antibilious Pills or Vermifuges, some may pick up some of your good books that may purge their minds of the far worse worms of Error & Vice. . . . Tomorrow, of a glad certainty, I start for my Brothers & thence to Virginia . . . I am now, thank God, perfectly well of my local & painful inflamation. . . . I have a plan on my mind, to be imparted soon perhaps, whereby I think I shall be able to vend several thousand copies of Washington every year. I have also an idea that you may with the aid of Trumbell[2] get a Panorama of the Battle of Braddock. Trumbell cou'd do it for you better than the Battle of Lodi. In that event thousands and myriads of dollars w^d be made. For not only all America, but England, Scotland and Ireland w^d rush to see a scene which Art coud render so terrific, and which w^d to all, become so *peculiarly*, I might say inexpressibly interesting because of the very awful part taken in it by one so Dear to All. The *historical* part (an hint for the Painter) may be render'd much more terrible than it is.

Think also what myriads it would sell of your book.

[1] Lea's patent medicines were advertised widely in the press of the day.

[2] See *Addenda.*

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES, Aug. 23, 1809

I cant think Jones[1] can be the Villain you fear him. At any rate, y^r^ fine writing will not touch his *Mammon Soul*. I tell you what will do. You must, if he have not already relented, get some of the most influential characters (and if Printers & Booksellers perhaps the better) to go and talk with him and as we say *shame him out of* the dirty intention. But let the matter come to the worst, we can soon have out an edition so greatly enlarg^d^ & *improv'd* as will *certainly* cause his to be neglected. I pray you to lay to heart what I told you yesterday about my plan of pushing Washington. Be assur'd it is the best on earth. Such is the Idolatry towards that Industrious Countryman of theirs, that the American People *will* have his history if cheap, especially if a little excited thereto by some genial touch. Well, my plan embraces that excitement. The Lawyers, the Doctors, the Squires and Revolutionary Majors Colonels, &c scatter'd up & down the country have *great weight*. And that weight they are very ready to exert for Washington, especially when they are to receive one copy for every eight or ten that they shall distribute among their young friends. . . . I send you a hand bill of 300 which I had printed for you t'other day at Baltimore, . . . Well suppose now some Country Squire or Col^o^. (whom I shou'd pitch on) had 10 Copies of Washington, and with his enthusiasm for that Great Man, and one of these Advertisements, printed in a *flaming* ad captandum style brandish^d^ in his hand at a barbecue a *muster* or what not, do you verily believe he w^d^ not knock 'em all off in 10 minutes? . . . Depend upon it that 17 years of experience have made me pretty short sighted. Were it not better to have these advertisements struck off on *colour'd paper*. Don't be uneasy about Jones. Get some proper hands to talk

[1] The sixth edition of Weems' *God's Revenge against Murder* was issued in 1809 by M. Jones of Philadelphia, 'With Permission of the Author.' It can only be surmised from the context of the letter above that Jones might be taking advantage of some flaw in Weems' complete ownership of his own tract, or possibly be availing himself of some contract which Weems might have signed with another printer. It was not uncommon in those days for a publisher or printer who had obtained the rights for a particular edition of a man's works to rush a very large number through at the last moment, when legally, if not in ethics, he might still have a right to do so. This was done by Campbell with one of the editions of Noah Webster's school books, and the compiler, though bitterly incensed, had no legal redress.

to him. Be assur'd no stone shall [*be*] left unturn[d] to get you a stout squad of money by Christmass. . . . Now tho' even on your own account, I am often wanting money, as also for myself & family exceedingly, yet I am so desirous to oblige you that I will chearfully sacrifice my own rights & interest if you will render me the following slender service. A M[r] Robinson or Robertson, Printer Calvert Street Balto has agreed to print my Life of Marion,[1] will have it ready for me in the first of October — figure 1500 Copies — half bound like your Washington. . . . The whole (*printing* & *binding*) about 500 Doll[rs] for the 1500 Copies. Now if you will take upon you to settle with Robinson . . . I will solemnly pledge myself that you shall have the *whole* of the monies raised whether from the Agents, the Subscriptions, or my own sales, at the *Courthouses*, till the 1[st] day of April 1810. Besides, you may take 300 copies of Marion which in the present indignant state of the public mind against the British, wod I think in 6 weeks, get back one half of your money. . . .

Yours aff.

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES, Aug. 24, 1809

. . . I pray you to spend no more paper, ink, nor time nor argument to persuade me to exertion and Perseverance in circulating Valuable Books. I am chock-full of Zeal burning with the Book fever and so are you. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 79.

[*Postmarked Dumfries, Aug. 26, 1809.*]

. . . Don't talk to me about Perseverance. My Heart will be on Books when my strength shall have failed. And if you make it my Interest, " my treasure["] to be with you, we shall never part for my heart is with you.

[1] The *Baltimore Directory* for 1814 lists a Joseph Robinson, printer, at 96 Baltimore Street, who, since this is some years subsequent to the above letter, may well be the man referred to in spite of the differing addresses. Judging by the advertisement below, he and Carey had business relations. I have never found a copy of this projected early edition of *Marion*. (See *Bibliography, title 85.*) — *Ed.* 'The 4th Edition . . . of the Olive Branch, . . . by M. Carey. . . . Just published, for sale by Joseph Robinson, Printer. Circulating Library, 96, Market st.' *Federal Gazette & Baltimore Daily Advertiser*, Apr. 26, 1815, *et seq.*, MdHS.

[*M. L. W.?*]

'A Sermon. "Whoso findeth a Wife findeth a good thing." So said Solomon, the prince of gallantry . . . will gently waft thy disembodied spirit to the gardens of the Paradise of God.'

[*Unsigned.*]

Alexandria Gazette, Aug. 26, 1809, AAS.

[Weems was in the neighborhood at this time, and the single phrase of Solomon's championship in gallantry seems to betray his authorship.]

L. & F. Vol. 75.

Dumfries Sep. 6. 1809.

Dr. Sir. . . . The truth is I do not wish to with hold from you *a single cent.* I do not forget the generosity that advanc'd so much money to print my little books, last autumn, nor the confidence, repos'd in me, of thousands of Dolls worth of Books, and therefore can't bear, *much as I want money*, to keep back any from you. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 75.

Dumfries. Octob. 4 1809.

Dr. Sir. . . . There is one thing lies painfully on my mind. Do it away & I shall be happy. And I expect you will do it away for you are an honorable man. The moment that I open my books at a Court house, and indeed while I am about it, I am throngd with the People — again, when my sales at *one* Court house are over, I am, obligd, in order to get the boxes to *another*, to put them into some waggon, as indeed also from the Seaports to the upland places. Well, now as the books are all chargd to me, if any of those persons who throng me, or any of the Waggoners who carry my boxes, shou'd purloin any of the books the loss will all be mine. Thus after all my labours and privations, after all my sighs & sweat, I may not make a cent for my little family, indeed be brought in debt. Now I do not know that a Waggoner ever robbd me in my life. Nor am I *certain* that more than 2 or 3 books were ever taken from me. But such a thing is possible; and therefore a subject of great terror and trouble to me; and which I promise me you will remove especially when you recollect that the above possibilities of petty larceny,

w^d be what you yourself cou'd not guard against; and therefore I trust you will not expect it from me. When I open the books at a court house, I can, to be sure, tell easily enough whether they answer to the invoice. But after two or 3 days sales, and when several of the books, being sold in a lump, had some deduction made on them, how cou'd you or I tell whether the amount of sales and the books still on hand tally exactly with the invoice? Or how coud I morning & evening *assort* & *inventory* those thousands of books *big* & *little* that compose the collections? Or how coud I tell so as to bring suit against a poor Waggoner who had purloin'd a book or two for his little children? I feel myself to be honest — and I feel also an assurance that I shall pay great attention to the *character* of *Waggoners*, and take the same care of the books as if they were my own. . . . I w^d scorn to make this request if I did not feel the most *entire satisfaction* in believing it to be not one *ten thousandth* part of a cent more than I ought to expect, and what a Gentleman of your *Honor* & humanity will feel it right & reasonable to do. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 75.

RICHMOND. Octob. 19. 1809

SIR. I feel inexpressible grief at [*the*] thought that all the vexatious heartburnings & wranglings of former years are about to return. I pray you calmly to peruse the following true & temperate lines. On my arrival in Philad^a last year you kindly invited me to the hospitalities of your house & made an overture to join you again. I told you that I believ^d I coud make more money by selling my own little books. At length however I consented to join, for a commission of 25 pr Cent you bearing the brunt of all risks & charges. But I told you that I must have the *choosing of my books*. Well hundreds of books were paraded in your dining room. I mark^d such as I thought w^d do well. I set off down the country on M^r. Waynes business. On my return, behold you had shipp^d 37 boxes &c to Dumfries & Fredericksb^g. 28 for the former, 9 for the latter place. 37 boxes were not too many, by any means, had the books been of the right sort. . . . In consequence of an extreme cold spring, and no body but my little children to help me, and a store room lumber'd and inconvenient, I was long in getting them sorted,

pack[d] &c &c. And when got to market the sales, as I *foresaw* & *predicted*, have been discouraging, & very inadequate to your wants which you say and I believe are *great*. And now you are beginning to quarrel with me. . . . I was to sell my heavy carriage, get a light gig, to make book establishments & to scatter papers among 1000 at least good hands. To all this I have attended with unabated industry except when a haemoroidal inflamation prevented. . . . I pray you to send to Sam[l] Pleasant 500 Findley *immediately*.

L. & F. Vol. 75.
Octob. 20, 1809

. . . rather than live in fear [*of theft*] with all your books, I w[d] give them up, take my chance with Marion [,] Mary Findley & my 30 pr Cent on Old Washington. By them I can live & bring up my children. . . . While this edition of Washington is working off let your Designer improve "The Defeat of Braddock.["] Done con expressione it w[d] produce a fine effect.

L. & F. Vol. 75.
Dumfries. Nov. 7, 1809.

. . . M[rs] W. & her sisters & my daughters are all now at work as hard as they can drive to get everything ready for me by saturday the 11[th]. when I shall start, and hope, with Heaven's blessing & a good horse, just purchas[d], to get to Columbia by the 25 or 26, in time to meet & make a fine display of your Books. These disappointments just stated set heavily on us both, but most so on me. You are, thank God, rich; but I am poor; and setting aside some small sales which M[rs] Weems has made of your books here, I have not kept one cent of your money. . . .

I am to give Sam[l] Pleasants 10$ for the year for advertising your Wash. & to the Printer in Lynchburg 5$ for advertising the same. This will greatly aid the sales. But if you approve it not, I will advertise no *more* except in *Charleston*, where I think I ought certainly to advertise. . . . You charge me very wrongly about selling my own little Wash. & Findley. *You know* I came loaded with them from your

house, & *had them to sell;* & from the sales I have sent you a good deal of money & paid a great deal for you. And besides I have told you repeatedly I was ready to sell all my own little scribblings to you & thus lose them in the general stock. This to some may appear a poor offer; but, without meaning or hinting at repentance for sell[g] Wash. I declare solemnly, I cou'd maintain my family handsomely on that single book. But still I believe that if you w[d] but aid with elegant expressive engravings, & wait a little untill we can *work things into a proper train*, we shall yet do admirably. In God Almightys name let us strive both to make & to deserve Wealth. . . . I beg you to do all you can for Marion. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 75.

DUMFRIES, Nov. 13, 1809.

SIR. . . . I most earnestly intreat you to think of the great importance of having Marion ready for me this season at the South. I may lose the sale utterly for a twelvemonth at least, if not sent. You have Wright with Robinson the Printer, I hope you will write to him with great plainness. I intreat you to *insure Marion* for me. . . .

L. & F. Vol. 75.

RICHMOND. Nov. 18. 1809.

. . . M[r]. Pleasants sales of Washington, since he advertiz[d] it are such as to lead him to wish that you w[d] send him 50 more. I pray you send him 300 of Mary Findley. . . . Let me most earnestly intreat you to order from M[r] Robinson the Printer, Balt[o] the whole of *Marion* & have them bound & push[d] off for me.

L. & F. Vol. 76.

RAULIGH. Nov. 27. 1809

SIR. . . . The 500 Washington were safely come to Grammar. We shall be ruin[d] from your inattention to my earnest & reiterated intreaties. Why were not Elegant Advertisem[ts] of this work, with the letters critical & commendatory by Lee &c &c printed on *colour'd* paper, sent in the box? . . .

I arriv[d] here, a few hours ago; in the morning I start to renew my journey to Columbia. God grant I may find the books & make a good sale. But whether or not, there is no cause of dispondence. Prudence & Perseverance will finally prevail.

I know that you will not forget nor forsake me in the Affair of Marion. Now or *never* is the season for Marion, I mean this Winter. I have not pocketted any of your monies, tho a good deal [*is*] due to me. I have desir'd the Agents, most of them, to send to you. I have given you up my Life of Washington at 1000, I have of my own monies, hardly earned & much wanted sent on & paid &[c] &[c] upwards of 1000 Doll[s] for you, I shall go on to send you, not only of your own money but also of Marion liberally. So I pray you let not Robinson ruin me in his Delays of that work. Get several Binders to work & push it off. Be sure you *insure* it. I told you to whom to send your Life of Washington with — *elegant advertisements*. Pray send them. Also let me know whether you have or not. I shall write soon.

Pray forget not that Great & excellent man, M[r]. Rives & his 3 stores,[1] as I often told you, I believe that a large Map of the world & of each quarter, w[d] meet a glorious encouragement.

L. & F. Vol. 76.

COLUMBIA Dec. 6, 1809

SIR. After most of the inconveniences which travelling flesh & blood are heirs to, I arriv[d] last night at place of date. As I approach[d] I found my fear increasing, & behold on my arrival I found them all *confirm[d]*. The books are not arriv[d]!!! I advis[d] you to consult some Mercantile friend of yours in Philad[a] for a proper Person in Charleston to whom you sh[d] address them. You address[d] them to Doct[r]. Moser,

[1] 'Notice. The Public are respectfully informed, that our winter supply of Goods, have principally arrived at Richmond from Europe, and will be immediately forwarded to our respective Stores at Lynchburg, Bent-Creek, New-Market, Warminster, and Milton . . . Robert Rives & Co. September 28, 1798.' *Lynchburg Weekly Gazette* (Virginia), Oct. 13, 1798, AAS. — 'Notice.' Partnership of Jesse Higginbotham & Co. dissolved and announcement of business to be continued by James Brown of Richmond, Robert Rives of Amherst Co. & Henry Rives of Caira under the firm name of Henry Rives & Co. Caira, August 1st, 1806. *Virginia Argus* (Richmond), Aug. 16, 1806, AAS.

who, fretted to death, about Wayne's "*Life of Washington*" wou'd have nothing to do with any other Books. But he tells me that he w^d^ have attended to it with alacrity had you but *paid the freight* and had you but told him that *I was on my way to meet the books at Columbia.*

But I pray you still be not uneasy. My God! If we are to laugh & be gay only when our plans succeed and money is pouring in upon us in torrents, what poor imbecile fair weather birds we must be! But give me the man who after toiling and planning like a Hero, can, greater still than an ordinary Hero, smile amidst disappointment & disaster. But I don't know that our Hero-ship is to be put to any very great trial; for the books are all in Charleston; and if I cannot get them up, I mean, as I always told you, to take a room on the public street, and *sell away for Life during the very great Concourse of Men & Horses in February.* But, once for all, let me intreat you to remember that tho our Business has commenc^ed^ under rather inauspicious aspects, yet we shall assuredly succeed if you will but keep up your Spirits & follow the Counsel of

yours

M. L. Weems.

N. B. I pray you not to forget me in the Affair of *Marion.* If not *quickly bound* & sent on this years sale of it may be irrevocably lost. You shall have the *best part of the monies arising from its sale.* Direct them to M^r^. John Hoff,[1] Bookseller N^o^. 6 Broad Street Charleston. I have some little money of my own which I w^d^ send but expect soon a call for it for *your books.* Poor as I am, I live in hope that all *will end well* yet.

[To Peter Horry]

Views and Reviews. William Gilmore Simms. Second Series, pp. 133–134 [*Italics are Simms'.*]

'Columbia, Dec. 13th, 1809.

Dear Sir: — It gives me great pleasure to be able to inform you, by our mutual friend Dr. Blythe, *that your ever-honored and beloved Marion lives in history. In other words, the history of the great Marion, from the documents you were so good as to give me, is finished.* How it will

[1] *The Life of George Washington,* . . . By David Ramsay, M.D. . . . New-York: Printed by Hopkins & Seymour, and sold, wholesale and retail by . . . John Hoff, Charleston . . . Baltimore, 1807. LC.

take, God only knows, but if I may be permitted to hope, by the success which has crowned the Life of Washington, I would hope very much in its favor. You have no doubt constantly kept in memory, *that I told you I must write it in my own way, and knowing the passion of the times for novels, I have endeavoured to throw your facts and ideas about Gen. Marion into the garb and dress of a military romance. I trust that the figure which you make on the great stage of war, and by the side of your illustrious friend, will not at all displease your delicacy, nor lessen your well founded claims to the gratitude and affections of the country which you so immensely served.* The Life of Marion will, I hope, be at Charleston in three weeks. But I don't believe that you will have the opportunity to see it earlier than the Races. With a thousand good wishes to your excellent lady, your amiable niece, and all your honored and beloved family, I remain with every sentiment of friendship and affection,

Yours,

M. L. Weems.'

[To Mathew Carey]

L. & F. Vol. 76.

Columbia Dec. 13. 1809
(write to me at Augusta).

Sir I have rec^{d} one of your letters. I don't mean to hurt your feelings when I tell you that your letters don't hurt mine. You shou'd remember that I can't harm your interests without much more harming my own. And from your knowledge of my great self love you ought to infer that I w^{d} never, knowingly harm myself. In planning I don't *pretend* to be a Literary Talleyrand. But still I feel confident that w^{d} you but execute my plans, with as much Prudence as promptitude we shou'd have done a great deal better. And now, w^{d} you but believe that I can do *my part* much better than you, & leave to *me my part* — and direct the books as I desire, and pay the postage & freightage when order^{d} to strangers, and leave me to choose the assortments & the Persons & places and allow a little seed time and support me properly & patiently, all w^{d} yet do well, *gloriously well.*

At Fayetteville I found 100 of your Washington. I cou'd take in my Gigg but 50, which I sold to the Legislature, & now send you the *money.* You are eternally grieving & grumbling about your books. I dont know that I shall ever ask you for another book. If you can get out of heart so soon I am *sincerely* sorry for it. I am certain that a noble

Fortune is to be made by one who cou'd supply me plenty of books and let me choose the *books* & allow me some *reasonable seed time*. This I expected, fully expected from you otherwise I w^d never have touch^d the business. I say had I not fully counted to have had to establish from 2 to 300 *illuminating*, moralizing book stores I w^d never have sold my Life of Washington. And let me tell you, *once for all* that if you are tired of the connexion I shall never use an argument to bind you to it. Give me back my little book, or as Nathan w^d say, my little ewe-lamb and take all your thousands of gigantic authors to *yourself*. I shall have your Collection carried to the Great Races on the 17 of January. Thence I shall carry them to the great races in Charleston Feb^y the 15. I intreat you to meet me there with my Life of Marion. I shall from that book alone be able to remit you a good many hundred dollars. I pray you to remember that I shall be seriously injur^d if you disappoint me in this book, & that *your interest will suffer with mine*. If the river shou'd be frozen can't they be sent by way of New York? My life had long be[*en?*] wretched to me in consequence of my sending on to you & to M^r. Wayne the monies due to myself, and then throwing myself on your mercy to do for me what I ought to have kept my monies to do for myself. I once *more pray you* not to disappoint me! for you will greatly injure yourself.

L. & F. Vol. 76.

COLUMBIA Dec. 18. [*1809.*]

SIR. "He that is slow to anger" says Solomon "is greater than the Mighty." But how melancholy it is to see so few, even among those, in other respects *excellent men*, who possess the virtue of self government. To pass by all foreign cases in point, here is one at hand. Here we have an instance of a *plan*, which, had it but been conducted with prudence and persever'd in with firmness, w^d in 10 years have exalted your fame your fortune & usefulness to an elevation above that of any Printer & Bookseller of the age, suddenly blasted by a gust of passion However since it is your wish I cordially subscribe to it — and there is an end. But since you close your letters with tell^s me what I *ought to have* done let me but tell you what, if *done by you*, w^d have *insur^d* success. Had you but given me what I a 1000 times pray^d for, a small collection of *school*

books & *family Bibles* with 30, 40, or 50 little ad captandum flyers; and for *judicious choice* of these, had you but allow[d] me, as I a 1000 times begg'd, to go through a 1000 neighbourhoods feeling the pulse of Preachers, Schoolmasters &c exactly suiting my assortments to the taste of the Religion, Politics, and general reading of the People and had you but patiently borne those delays, disappointments &c which generally attend the commencement of *large undertakings*, and given me time to work about from station to station the *unsalables* & finally to send back, and get out such fitter assortments as w[d], according to my oft repeated talk to you, leave no *dead stock* no *back freight*, had you, I say, but exerted a fortitude equal to all this, we shou'd in the course of a couple of years have gotten your affairs afloat on a bold stream of arrangement which w[d] most assuredly have wafted you to the port of a Glorious Success. But, thank God, you can do very well without me, & so long accustom[d] to hard labour and poverty [*are*] both me and my family, we can the better brook the failure of a plan which promis'd a rise in our lot.

Had I not known that passion is your foible and almost your only one, I should have been much hurt by those abusive epithets you so freely bestow on me. And had you pour'd them forth, viva voce, simultaneously with the unfortunate heat, I should have thought nothing of it. But that a Gentleman of your excellent sense & generous disposition shou'd have *leisurely* let fall from your pen such a charge as the follow[g] "*nothing affords a plainer proof of your extreme worthlessness than your anxiety about Marion.*" In God s name have I not told you a 1000 times that every cent that I cou'd raise shoud be sent to you till the 1[st] of June? Did you not agree to give me near 1300 Doll[s] for Washington, with the *addition* Did you not get the monies from the Booksellers for Wash. & Findley &c to [*the*] amount of 1 or 200 dollars? Have I not order'd all the Agents to send you every penny of their sales, and some have sent one, two, or 300 Dolls each; And of those small sums sent to me have I not hurried on every dollar to you? And have I not of my little books, and chiefly of my best book Washington wholesaled them to the Merchants at the *discount* of one 4th & sometimes of nearly one 3[rd] that I might send you help? And in this way have paid or sent you 900 Dollars, of my own money, not allow[g] my poor wife & children even a paper of pins out of my own means to sell to the market women for

eggs and chickens. Now these things, Mr. Carey, you cannot but know to be as true as the word of God, and yet you charge me as cruelly about Marion as tho' I had kept every penny of your money & wish'd still to add to the illgotten stock by the sales of Marion!!! Myriads of your dollars and books have passd through my hands, and at this moment, so far from its being correct that you are in advance of money to me, I am in advance to you tho' often at such close pinching of family comfort, that Mrs. Weems has sometimes, on my return home, declar'd as a reason for more than her common Joy at seeing me, that she expected every hour a call for money but had not a cent in the house. And yet after all you can call me "a *selfish, unfeeling, sordid wretch*" thus to *weary* you for one of my own books, and yet think nothing of *dooming thousands & tens of thousands of your books to lie dormant* for years!! O My God! that passion shou'd blind such a mind as yours! Where, Mr Carey, where is there a single book of yours ever sent to me that is not now on its station awaiting the chance of sale? You agreed, as you say, to give me a dollar a day; Have I ever touch'd your dollars? Have I not subsisted my family & myself by the sales of my own Washington? But that source is now exhausted. And what cou'd have been more correct in me who have by such unquestionable proofs, demonstrated my wish to remit you all the monies I cou d get, I say what cou d be more natural than for me to wish to get Marion that I might still not touch a penny of your's for my use? And what cou'd be more politic, admitting that friendship for me was utterly extinct in your bosom, I say what cou'd be more *politic* than to send me on a little book from the sales of which I cou'd subsist myself without breaking in upon your funds, and not only subsist myself, but actually send you on, as I trust, many hundreds of dollars to meet your heavy demands? I therefore once more intreat you instantly to have Marion bound for me & sent on to New York (not behind the *stage*, for I am afraid they wd be wreckd & shatterd in that way) but in some other safer way, & to some friend of yours who will at your particular instance immediately put them on board the Charleston packet. The Great Races there will commence on the 12th of Febry. And if actuated, I don't say, by friendship for me, but by a prudent regard to your own pecuniary interest, you wd but make such exertions as you are capable of, you cou'd easily get my little book to me by the time

I shall want it. I shou'd not think so much about it, but that I am every hour importun'd for Marions Life, & by the greatest Men of the State, to whom he was uncommonly dear. I pray you therefore again, hurry that little book to me, 'tis the last favor I shall ever ask of you. It will save you a good deal of money; & it will bring you in many a hundred dollar to help you. And to make this request appear the lighter, I do not wish you to *advance* your money for it. Let the Binders do it *for me*, and send the books to M^r^ John Hoff Bookseller, Charleston, with orders not to deliver them without the money, which I solemnly pledge my veracity shall be obtain'd without touchg a penny of your Money. This is to me one of the most afflictive cases I have met with. Of the monies rais'd on *your* books at the two Court houses, the only two I ever attended this summer, I sent you every shilling. Of the monies sold [*sic*] by the agents, I order'd all on to you. Of the monies rais'd by great sacrifices, on my own little books, after poorly subsisting my family, I sent all to you, and yet after all these evidences of fidelity & devotedness, I am charged with crimes & villainies incongruous with the whole of my past life, & I am cruelly kept out of my little books from the sale of which I cou'd augment the stock of my money in your hands, and which is to be paid to me at the final Settlement. I therefore beg you to oblige me in this last favor. As we are about to part it is hardly worth your while to depart from your usual character, (magnanimity) in this last & small affair And when you can gain nothing, but will surely lose a *good deal*. I expect some of your books here hourly. Then shall soon remit.

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COLUMBIA. Dec. 19 — [*18*]09.

SIR. Now see for a moment and I pray God for the last time the skeleton of my operations, a brief history of my last unfortunate campaign with you, or in your service. In July 1808 I arriv^d^ in Philad^a^ to see M^r^. Wayne &c. You invited me to cooperate with you. I replied that I believ^d^ I cou'd do better with my own little Books. However finding Wayne gone & having reason to believe that his Life of Washington was perhaps done with, and you talking with me frequently at your own table of hospitality, I at length agreed to join you. I told

you it was not the quantity but the *quality* of books that I valued — that I must have the assortments *small, select, & numerous*, 2 or 300 at any rate, that good collections of school books, family Bibles, & 30, 40, Or 50 varieties of ad captandum little pieces *w^d be the thing* [. *I*] added, that I must choose my books. Day after day I had the parlour floor cover^d with books *passing review* I selected & expected to go on selecting, when suddenly you put a stop saying you w^d engage you w^d suit me with the right books. You ask^d how many collections cou'd be dispos^d of in the vicinity of Dumfries. I told you, *so many*. You spoke of instantly packing, to Fredericksbur^g, Dumfries & Alexand^a. I pointed out the extreme inconvenience of unpacking, assorting &c in a lumber house or tavern. You liberally replied that you w^d not stand on [*allow?*]ing me a Doll^r or Dollar & a half per day for assistance while *thus engag^d* I told you what loss of time, and how improper for me who ought to be hurrying on wings of speed to find good stations to be thus wasting precious time. I also reminded [*you*] how much more convenient your large house, spoke of your different tires, [*sic*] & with what ease & facility Henry & Wm & so on, cou d assort & pack & be done with the thing *at once*. Well, I set off down the peninsula on Wayne's business. On my return I was thunderstruck to hear you say you had shipp^d off 37 trunks & boxes to Fredericksb^g & Dumfries. To this moment I feel something of the shock I felt when I heard that speech. It depress^d me whenever I thought of it. I saw that the miserable scenes of former days were coming back. However soon as I got home, with my little daughters one 11 the other 12 I fell to work The weather was so cold that I often dreaded they wou^d take the ague. I shou'd have observ^d that 16 or 18 of the boxes thro some fatal accident, not now remember'd were detain^d in Alexand^a till March. Impell^d by the double consideration of *Duty*, & of consciousness that the sooner I cou'd get the Books to their stations the sooner they w^d sell and the sooner monies w^d come to both of us, I lost little or no time to accomplish. In the midst of these trials, dashing over the rocky mountains in a hard going gigg, I was seiz'd with a hæmorrhoidal inflamation which confin^d me to my room 5 weeks. Near the end of that penance, I got letters from you stating that you had shipp^d books for Fredericksbg and, knowing that it w^d be some time before they w^d arrive & feeling a wish to visit my aged &

beloved old Brother [1] at the sacred spot of my nativity, I set out tho' not quite well. And remember, that on this very visit I counted to get several good stations for your books. At my Brother's, my pain returning with threatening symptoms, I thought I w^d go on board of his shallop & sail up to Balt^o. This I did the rather as I saw I cou'd not yet undergo any hard exercise. While at Balt^o I agreed to get [?] Marion printed even tho' I shou'd do it on money borrowd from my friends, for you had *refus'd* to print it for me. Now here is the true statement of a trip taken to see my aged Brother and with a view to your Own business, and in a critical fortnight when I was detain^d waiting for your books, & when thro' infirmity, I was unable to do anything vigorously. And yet for lack of knowing all these circumstances you have a dozen times upbraided me for this little affair. On my return I fell to work to distribute the stores — I attended two Court houses, *Orange* & *Madison* with only 2 or 3 boxes. I sold 140 to 150 dollars which I sent you. After this I went down to Richmond to receive & distribute 7 boxes of books. Previous to this I had hinted that as I was to visit South Carolina on Wayne's business, It w^d be well to improve the opportunity presented by the Session at that time of their Legislature, and that you shou'd send me a good quantity of books. You agreed to it as a good plan. But being advised by me that I might, before my departure for Columbia, sell you two parcels of books you immediately sent me on two parcels one to Richmond, the other to Fredericksbg. For that to Richmond, I waited 2 weeks. When it arriv^d, the neighboring Courts were all *out of Session*. Seeing now that if I waited for the *following month's* Session of Courts in those counties, I shou'd sacrifice the books for Columbia, I immediately set off towards the head waters of James river, establish^g stores all along in the beautiful villages, where I found Johnson was just engag^d in the same business. I establish^d a grand store for you at Lynchburg; thence I pass^d on thro' Glasgow, &^c. &^c. &^c. to Charlottesville to meet the fine Court house collection which you had shipp^d for Fredericksb^g. I got to Charlottesville 2 days before the Session of the Court but found, to my infinite mortification, that M^r. Cooke had not been able to get them to me. I then engag^d them to one of the wealthiest & properest Merchants of Charlottesville and gave

[1] Probably William, one of his full brothers.

him the catalogues & an order on M^r. Cooke for the books. In the meantime M^r. Cooke, finding that he cou'd not get the books to me, & supposing that they contain^d some of the many articles he was constantly call^d for, he open'd the boxes. I lamented this measure & endeavor^d to remedy it by desiring Cooke to keep ½ of the Books, & send the other to the Agent in Charlottesville. I then push^d on, via Richmond, & Petersburg, where I finish^d the business remaining there; & thence, notwithstanding a bad cold, a fever, a dreadful cough, and much rain and snow, I press^d on in an open gigg for this place where to my great grief & disappointment found the books were not arriv^d. Whether this failure was owing to my neglect or to yours, is left to your own adjudication. I begg^d you to send them to a Mercantile friend of some Mercantile house of yours in Philad^a. You sent them to a private Gentleman. "He had no notion" he said, "of paying such large freight." And as to the box of Washington, he objected because instead of desiring him to keep or put them out & sell for *me*, you had *actually charg^d him as tho' he had bought them of you*. Now, Sir, this is a plain, short statement of my efforts to do all I coud for you. To this I was excited, most strongly excited by the sure & double motive of a sense of duty and of that *high self love* which you yourself does [*sic*] not suppose me deficient in. That I have most constantly wished the best, and done all I cou'd for the best, (except indeed in some *small degree* in the article of scattering subscription papers) I am pretty well satisfied. And as well satisfied am I, that, had you but follow^d my plans from the start, you w^d ultimately have obtain'd the most complete & glorious accomplishment of your wishes. Yes, the long & woeful experience of past times & labours had fully convinc'd me of the exceeding fallacy of all hopes from our former modes of doing business. I therefore begg^d you a 1000 times to let me go through the Country, selecting, *first*, the proper stations, then selecting the suitable books, & last, sending on to you the appropriate catalogues. I begg^d you to allow good time properly to organize & get the undertaking in motion, and to work about from station to station the vast mass of unsaleable books already sent & replace them with what were of the right sort — and after establishing all the stores, to let me attend in *person* with large cargoes at the Court houses. But *starting wrong*, I mean with thousands of unassorted books, then start-

ing with many of the unpopular & but few of the popular kinds — then precipitating thousands of heavy books to *one place* & that the last on earth for such cargoes, (the Select Speeches to Dumfries) then *impatience*, allowing no time to mend what was wrong — nor to establish a 5th part of the stores stipulated, but tho' 250 to 300 were contemplated, not allowg even 40, but breaking out into passion & loading me with the most cruel & disgraceful epithets, & dissolving the connexion, & speaking of me to Colo. Rives & perhaps to others, as a Base Man, and not sending me my little book Marion's Life, saying it wd be *advancing* me money, when you ought to know that the 1300 Dolls which you were to give me for my Washington with the additions; with the many hundred dollars which I have paid & sent to you out of my own *monies* wd outweigh my debt to you — besides all the monies which all the Agents have sent to you, and those you collected from the Booksellers in Philada on my account. And then to think that you shou'd rejoice in bringing such undeserved losses on a poor man, who as you well know — has always in his dealings with you, and with John Adams, & with Mr. Wayne, both labour'd & denied himself many of the comforts of life that he might send you your monies, not wronging you even of a bundle of wrapping paper. Let me now for the last time intreat you to bind & send me on Marion, to some safe friend in New York to send immediately to Mr. Hoff Bookseller Charleston, with orders to him to hold the books untill I pay for them. If I coud get that book it wd prove a good thing to you as well as to me. It wd keep me from the necessity of touching one dollar of your money, and it wd enable me to send many hundred[s] to you to help you, as I have always done out of my own means, to meet your heavy engagements. But to prevent wrong conclusions, let me assure you Mr Carey, that not a syllable of the above statement is intended to cause you to revoke your order to dissolve connexion. But to convince you that it is chiefly, and I might add whoally to your own Imprudence & Precipitance that you are to ascribe those mortal blows that have been given to this Infant Hercules, which had it but been laid in the cradle of my planning, & fed with the aliment of my vigilance & address wd have become one of the most gigantic & glorious of all modern births. Yes, *in 10 years* it wd have been a Hercules indeed. And as to Marion it is your *own interest* to send it.

Your own Heart bears witness that I don't keep back your money from you. And it is hardly worth while for a Gentleman, in many respects so magnanimous, to close his commercial Life with me in *spite* and *malice*. The great Races in Augusta begin the 17th Jany — At Charleston the 15th. Feby, at both & all places I shall do the best with yr books. It will be an injury to you & extreme mortification to me if I get not Marion at the *latter place*.

L. & F. Vol. 76.
CAMDEN. Dec. 26. 1809.

SIR. . . . Tis said that South Carolina never had so POOR a *representation* before. And some think that I shd hardly have sold them 300$. And I am in high hopes that this paltry loss will be amply made up at the two great Races coming, in Augusta & Charleston. The books are, I doubt not, now on board the waggons for Augusta — The races commence there on the 17th Jany. I shall then push to Charleston where the Races will commence on [*sic*] the middle of Feby. If you think it advisable I will attend some of the principal Courts in the Country. Their sessions are generally long & crowded. And my hopes are revivd when I remember that 3 years ago with a very inferior assortment I sold 3000 Dolls at 5 or 6 Courts. Thus do I endeavor to make as [*light as*] possible this first shock of disappointment, here at Columbia. It is easy for the Rich to philosophize, & especially on other people s losses. But you will do me the Justice to remember that *I am not rich*, nor am I unconcern'd in this loss. My daily bread depends on my daily revenue in your service. And when disasters come, they bring the most threatening aspect on *me*. You, thank God, are rich, & possessg wealth perhaps above one hundred thousand dolls. I am worth *nothing* but my Health & Spirits. And when I left Mrs. Weems, I left *her* in the last fortnight of gestation — in a town — with 12 in family — a hard winter setting in and with only 40 Dolls. Thus after all the thousands & tens of thousands of dollars that have come through my hands to John Adams, Caleb P. Wayne, and to yourself, I can hardly support my family, cannot give them the education they deserve, and even have not the means to pay for the binding of 10 or 1200 Chap books (I mean Marion). I have told you in my last letters that you are not "*to advance*" for me. That taking all

things into account you will find I am in advance to you. I shall not be able to meet my numerous friends & acquaintances at the Charleston races, (Feb^{y} 13) unless I have *Marion* with me. Without him I shall be oblig^{d} to make large drafts on *your* money. With him I shall I hope be able to make you handsome remittances. I don't want you to *advance*. Tell the Binders to *insure*, and to direct to John Hoff, Bookseller Charleston, with orders to receive the money before he delivers the books. I have friends in Charleston who will *lend* me a little money for that purpose. It will be but a trifle. I trust then that this, the last favor I shall probably ever ask of you, will be attended to in the Spirit that True Policy & Magnanimity conjointly dictate. Wishing yourself & Family Many Happy New Years, I subscribe

M. L. Weems.

ERRATA

P. 7 Footnote 3, last lines (on p. 8), Burkitt's *Poor Man's Help and Rich Man's Guide* should read *Poor Man's Help and Young Man's Guide*.

P. 193 Footnote 1 should be applied to 'Cameron' in the letter of April 9, 1802 on p. 233. For Mr. Henderson, see Vol. III, *Addenda*, Henderson, Robert.

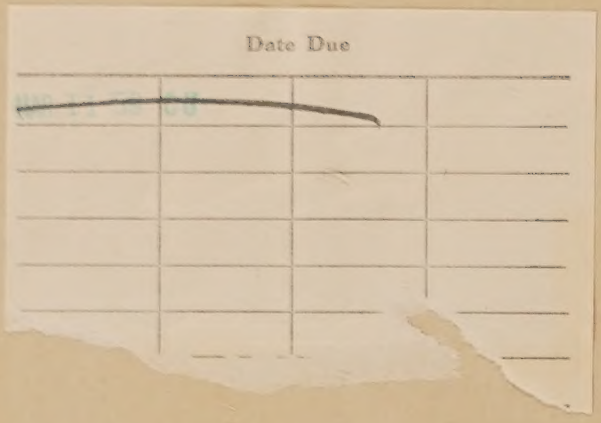
P. 202 Footnote 1 does not apply here; it should be read in connection with p. 119, footnote 2, which gives the caption title with which alone the pamphlet was first issued. The 'piece' mentioned on p. 202 'on the Excellencies of a Republican Government' was later issued as *The True Patriot*, see p. 208, footnote.

P. 209 Delete first reference to footnote 1 in text.

P. 252 Letter to Thomas Jefferson, dated 'Dumfries Nov. 22 [*1802*]', should read '[*1804*]'. See page 306.

P. 266 Delete footnote 2, with its reference in text.

P. 389 In footnote 1, 'Ewells' should read 'Ewell'. The reference in the text was undoubtedly meant to be possessive, 'At Dr. Ewell's'.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